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ABSTRACT

This government report presents information on age, sex, labor force activities, and race and ethnic origin of the rural and rural farm population for 1987. Also included are fertility characteristics for the June 1987 Current Population Survey (CPS) supplement and data from the March 1987 CPS supplement on marital status, household, family composition, and income and poverty. The number of people living in rural areas of the United States in 1987 was 63.8 million, with about 4.9 million of these living on farms. Farm residents represented 30.2% of the total population in 1920 but by 1987, that figure had fallen to 2%. Half the farm population lived in the Midwest, with the South containing 29 percent of the population, according to the 1987 figures. There was a higher proportion of Whites and lower proportions of Blacks and people of Hispanic origin on farms as compared with the nonfarm population. The median age of rural farm residents was 37.6 years in 1987. About 69% of farm residents age 15 or older were in the labor force in 1987, compared with 65% of the nonfarm population. Farm residents of both sexes were much more likely to be self-employed or unpaid family workers and less likely to work for wages and salaries. Money income for the year 1986 was generally lower for households and families living on farms than for those in nonfarm areas. The median income was $21,655 for farm households and $24,979 for nonfarm households. The document includes 5 graphs, 16 pages of tables and an appendix of "Definitions and Explanations." (TES)

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Rural and Rural Farm Population: 1987

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Rural and Rural Farm Population: 1987

INTRODUCTION

The number of persons living in rural areas of the United States in 1987 was 63,889,000 (±404,000). About 4,986,000 (±191,000) of these rural residents lived on farms (tables A and B).[1] One out of every 49 persons, or 2.0 (±0.1) percent of the Nation's population, had a farm residence. Farm residents represented 30.2 percent of the total population in 1920, when they were first identified as a separate group in census statistics;[2] this proportion fell to 15.3 percent by 1950, and to 4.8 (±0.1) percent by 1970.

Table A. Urban and Rural Residence of the Population: 1987

(Current Population Survey annual averages. Numbers in thousands)

Residence[1]	Persons	Percent of total	Percent of rural
Total	238,540	100.0	(X)
Urban	174,651	73.2	(X)
Rural	63,889	26.8	100.0
Rural nonfarm	58,903	24.7	92.2
Rural farm	4,986	2.1	7.8

X Not applicable.

[1]The urban and rural estimates are based on 1980 census geography. They do not reflect changes in the classification of urban and rural territory since 1980. For the definitions of urban and rural, see appendix A.

The U.S. Bureau of the Census and the Economic Research Service of the Department of Agriculture prepared the rural and farm population estimates for 1987. The estimates are annual averages of monthly data from the Current Population Survey (CPS) for the calendar year 1987.

The farm population consists of persons living on farms in rural areas of the country; it does not include residents of the relatively small number of farms located in urban areas. In the CPS, a farm is defined as

Table B. U.S. Population, by Farm Residence: 1920 to 1987

(Numbers in thousands)

Year	Total resident population[1]	Farm population	
		Number[2]	Percent of total
Current Farm Definition			
1987	[3]243,400	4,986	2.0
1986	241,096	5,226	2.2
1985	238,736	5,355	2.2
1984	236,477	5,754	2.4
1983	234,284	5,787	2.5
1982	231,996	5,628	2.4
1981	229,637	5,850	2.6
1980[4]	221,672	6,051	2.7
Previous Farm Definition			
1983	234,284	7,029	3.0
1982	231,996	6,880	3.0
1981	229,637	7,014	3.1
1980[4]	221,672	7,241	3.3
1970	203,235	9,712	4.8
1960	179,323	15,635	8.7
1950	150,697	23,048	15.3
1940	131,669	30,547	23.2
1930	122,775	30,529	24.9
1920	105,711	31,974	30.2

[1]Census Bureau estimates for July 1 for 1980 to 1987; official census counts for earlier years. The 1980 estimate is consistent with the 1970 census; figures for 1981 and later years are consistent with the 1980 census.

[2]Figures for 1960 and later years are from the Current Population Survey; figures for earlier years are from *Farm Population Estimates, 1910-70,* U.S. Department of Agriculture, Statistical Bulletin No. 523, July 1973. Annual averages for 1984 to 1987; five quarter averages centered on April for 1960 to 1983. Figures for 1981 and later years are consistent with the 1980 census. See appendix A for further explanation.

[3]The total population figure shown here differs from that shown in table A because the latter refers only to the civilian noninstitutional population, whereas this refers to the total resident population.

[4]The 1980 estimates are based on the population controls from the 1970 census and thus are not directly comparable to the estimates for 1981 and later years. The total resident population from the 1980 census was 226,545,805.

[1]Figures following the ± notation in this section represent ± 1.6 standard errors of the estimated statistic or the 90-percent confidence interval for the estimate. See appendix B for further explanation of confidence intervals.

[2]The 1920 census is regarded as the beginning of the series of census data on farm population. Estimates back to 1880 were prepared by Leon E. Truesdell, a Census Bureau demographer, and were published in U.S. Bureau of the Census, Technical Paper No. 3, *Farm Population: 1880 to 1950,* Washington, D.C., 1960. The estimates were based on data on number of farms, number of farm families, size of farm families, and interrelationships of these items over time. The estimated number of farm residents and their proportion of the total population for 1880 was 21,972,618 and 43.8 percent; for 1890, 24,771,101 and 39.4 percent; for 1900, 29,875,347 and 39.3 percent; for 1910, 32,076,960 and 34.9 percent.

a place which sold agricultural products amounting to $1,000 or more during the preceding year. Rural areas include the open countryside and also towns and villages with fewer than 2,500 inhabitants, that are not in the suburbs of large cities. About 1 out of every 13 rural residents, or 7.8 (±0.3) percent of the total, lived on farms in 1987.

This report presents information on race and Hispanic origin, age and sex, and labor force activities of the rural and rural farm population for 1987. Also included for farm residents are fertility characteristics from the June 1987 CPS supplement and data from the March 1987 CPS supplement on marital status, household and family composition, and income and poverty.

SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE FARM POPULATION

Change in number. No statistically significant change in the number of farm residents took place from 1986 to 1987.[3] The 1987 estimate is 240,000 lower than that for 1986, but a difference of about 275,000 would be needed for the decline to be significant at the 90-percent confidence level.[4]

Although the most recent annual change is not statistically significant, the farm population has been declining in the 1980's. When the year-to-year changes are cumulated from 1981 (the first year for which 1980 census-based estimates are available) through 1987, the farm population averaged a significant loss of 2.5 percent per year. The rate of loss approximates the 2.9 percent average annual decline of the previous decade.

Geographic distribution. Half of the total farm population now lives in the Midwest (table 1). The South contains 29 percent of farm residents; the West, 15 percent; and the Northeast, just 6 percent. Reliable State and local area farm population data are not available from the survey.

At mid-century, about one-third of all farm residents were in the Midwest, while slightly more than half lived in the South. The more rapid decline of the Southern farm population, rather than any growth in the Midwest's farm residents, led to the reversal in regional rankings. This contrasts with the distributional trends of the total population:

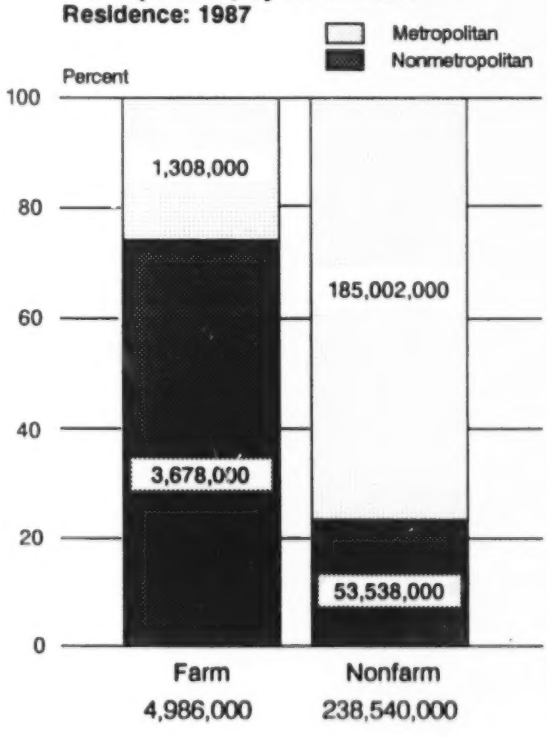
Percent Distribution, by Region

Region	Total population		Farm population	
	1950	1987	1950	1987
Northeast	26.1	20.7	7.8	6.1
Midwest	29.4	24.5	32.3	50.7
South	31.2	34.4	51.6	28.7
West	13.3	20.4	8.4	14.5

The South has remained the most populous region since 1950, and its rapid growth has resulted in a slight increase in its share of the total population, while the Midwest's share of the total has declined since 1950.

Although the majority of farm residents live in nonmetropolitan territory, about one-fourth (1.3 million) lived within the boundaries of metropolitan areas in 1987 (figure 1). The nonfarm population, in comparison, was more than three-fourths metropolitan.

Figure 1.
Metropolitan-Nonmetropolitan Distribution of the Population, by Farm-Nonfarm Residence: 1987



SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

Race and Hispanic origin. As compared with the nonfarm population, the farm population has a higher proportion of Whites, a lower proportion of Blacks, and a lower proportion of persons of Hispanic origin (who may be of any race). In 1987, 97 percent of farm residents were White, 2.5 percent were Black, and 2.7

[3]Comparisons made in the text that test below the 90-percent confidence level are not considered statistically significant.

[4]The 90-percent confidence interval for the 240,000 change between 1986 and 1987 is ±273,000. Since the confidence interval contains zero, it is uncertain whether there is an increase or decrease. See appendix B.

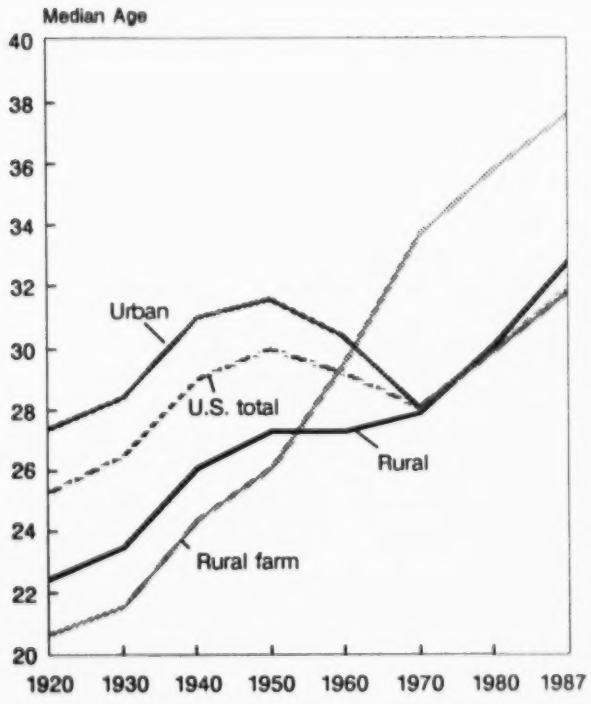
percent were Hispanic (table 2). The nonfarm population was about 84 percent White, 12 percent Black, and 8 percent Hispanic.

The farm population also has a higher proportion of Whites and a lower proportion of Blacks than the nonfarm component of the rural population (table 3). The rural farm and rural nonfarm populations have about the same proportion of persons of Hispanic origin. The total rural population, in comparison to the urban population, has more Whites, fewer Blacks, and fewer Hispanics.

Detailed characteristics and trends of minority farm residents are not presented in this report. The data are taken from a sample survey and, because of the large standard errors involved with such small subgroups, differences are difficult to interpret (see appendix B).

Age and sex. The median age of rural farm residents was 37.6 years in 1987, which is significantly higher than the median of 32.0 years for the nonfarm population (table 4). The age difference is not just an urban-rural difference; farm residents are older than the rural population in general. In 1987, the median age of the urban population was 31.8 years, and the median age of the rural total was a little higher at 32.8 years, but both were significantly lower than the farm population median (figure 2 and table 5). In the 1920 census, when data on the farm population were first collected, their median age was 20.7 years, lower than the medians for the rural total and the urban population.

Figure 2.
Median Age of the Population, by Urban, Rural, and Rural Farm Residence: 1920 to 1987



The ratio of males to females is higher in the farm population than in the nonfarm population, as it has been since at least 1920. There were 109 males per 100 females living on farms in 1987, compared with just 93 males per 100 females in the nonfarm population (table 4). In 1920, the nonfarm sex ratio (102) was considerably higher than it is now, while the farm ratio was the same (109).

Marital status. Farm residents are more likely to be married than nonfarm residents. About 67 percent of farm residents 15 years and over were married and living with a spouse in 1987, compared with 56 percent of nonfarm residents (table 6). This difference is greater among women than men, as might be expected given the sex ratios noted earlier: 70 percent of farm women were married and living with their husbands versus 53 percent of nonfarm women, while 63 percent of farm men were married versus 58 percent of nonfarm men. Relatively fewer farm than nonfarm residents were married and living apart, widowed, or divorced, whereas similar proportions were single.

Households and families. There were 1,704,000 farm households in 1987, representing about 2 percent of all households (table 7). About 85 percent of these farm households were made up of families; the proportion of families among nonfarm households was 72 percent (table 8).

The average size of family is about the same for farm and nonfarm residents: 3.28 members per farm family and 3.18 members per nonfarm family. In the past, farm families were considerably larger than nonfarm families. For example, farm families in 1950 averaged 4.13 members,. compared with 3.52 for nonfarm families.

Farm families are more likely than nonfarm families to have both husband and wife present (94 percent versus 80 percent), but they are less likely to have children living at home (41 percent versus 50 percent), despite their somewhat higher childbearing. This reflects the older age structure of the farm population.

Fertility. The fertility of farm women of childbearing age continues to be higher than that of nonfarm women. According to data for June 1987, the number of children born to ever-married farm women 18 to 44 years averaged 2,031 per 1,000 women (table C). The number of children ever born to nonfarm women was 1,781 per 1,000 women.

ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Labor force participation. About 69 percent of farm residents 15 years and over were in the labor force in

Table C. Fertility Characteristics, by Marital Status and Farm-Nonfarm Residence: June 1987

(For women 18 to 44 years old. June 1987 Current Population Survey. Numbers in thousands)

Marital status and children ever born	Total	Farm	Nonfarm
All Marital Classes			
Total women	52,139	818	51,321
Women by children ever born:			
None	19,063	274	18,790
Percent childless	36.6	33.5	36.6
One	10,203	135	10,068
Two	13,263	227	13,037
Three or more	9,609	182	9,426
Total children ever born	71,274	1,263	70,012
Per 1,000 women	1,367	1,544	1,364
Women Ever Married			
Total women	36,837	612	36,226
Women by children ever born:			
None	6,867	81	6,786
Percent childless	18.6	13.2	18.7
One	8,497	127	8,370
Two	12,485	223	12,263
Three or more	8,988	181	8,807
Total children ever born	65,757	1,242	64,514
Per 1,000 women	1,785	2,031	1,781

1987 (table 9). A lower proportion (65 percent) of the nonfarm population was in the labor force. The overall pattern is the product of higher participation of farm men. In every age group except 20 to 24 years, the proportion of farm men in the labor force was significantly higher than that of nonfarm men (figure 3 and table 10). Farm women, however, had about the same proportion in the labor force as nonfarm women at all ages except 65 years and over.

A relatively low rate of unemployment characterizes the farm resident labor force. Only 2.9 percent of the labor force living on farms was unemployed in 1987, compared with 6.3 percent of the nonfarm labor force (table 9). There are differences in farm resident labor force participation rates and unemployment rates between the two major farming regions, the Midwest and South. Midwestern farm residents were more likely to be in the labor force and less likely to be unemployed than Southern farm residents (table 11).

Higher labor force participation and lower unemployment are distinctive of the rural farm population; they are not a product of overall urban-rural differences. In fact, the overall rural labor force participation rate was slightly lower than the urban rate in 1987, while the unemployment levels in rural and urban areas were similar. The participation rates of 64 percent for rural residents and 65 percent for urban residents were lower than the farm resident rate (table 12). The unemployment rates of 6.1 and 6.3 percent, for rural and urban residents, respectively, were higher than the farm resident rate.

Occupation and industry. About 3 percent of the total employed labor force worked solely or primarily in farm occupations in March 1987 (table D). The proportion has declined steadily since 1820, the first year an occupation question was asked in the census. At that time, more than 70 percent of the Nation's workers had farm occupations. By 1900, the proportion had dropped by almost half, to 37.5 percent.

The annual average estimate of the number of persons with farm occupations in 1987 was 3.4 million (table 13). About two-fifths of the group were "farm operators and managers;" the remainder were "farm workers and related occupations." Farm operators and managers are more likely to live on farms than farm workers. About 68 percent of farm operators and managers lived on farms in 1987, compared with just 17 percent of farm workers and workers in related occupations. This is partly because the category "farm workers and related occupations" includes persons in related jobs not performed on farms or in rural settings. According to the 1980 Census of Population,

Table D. Persons in Farm Occupations: 1820 to 1987

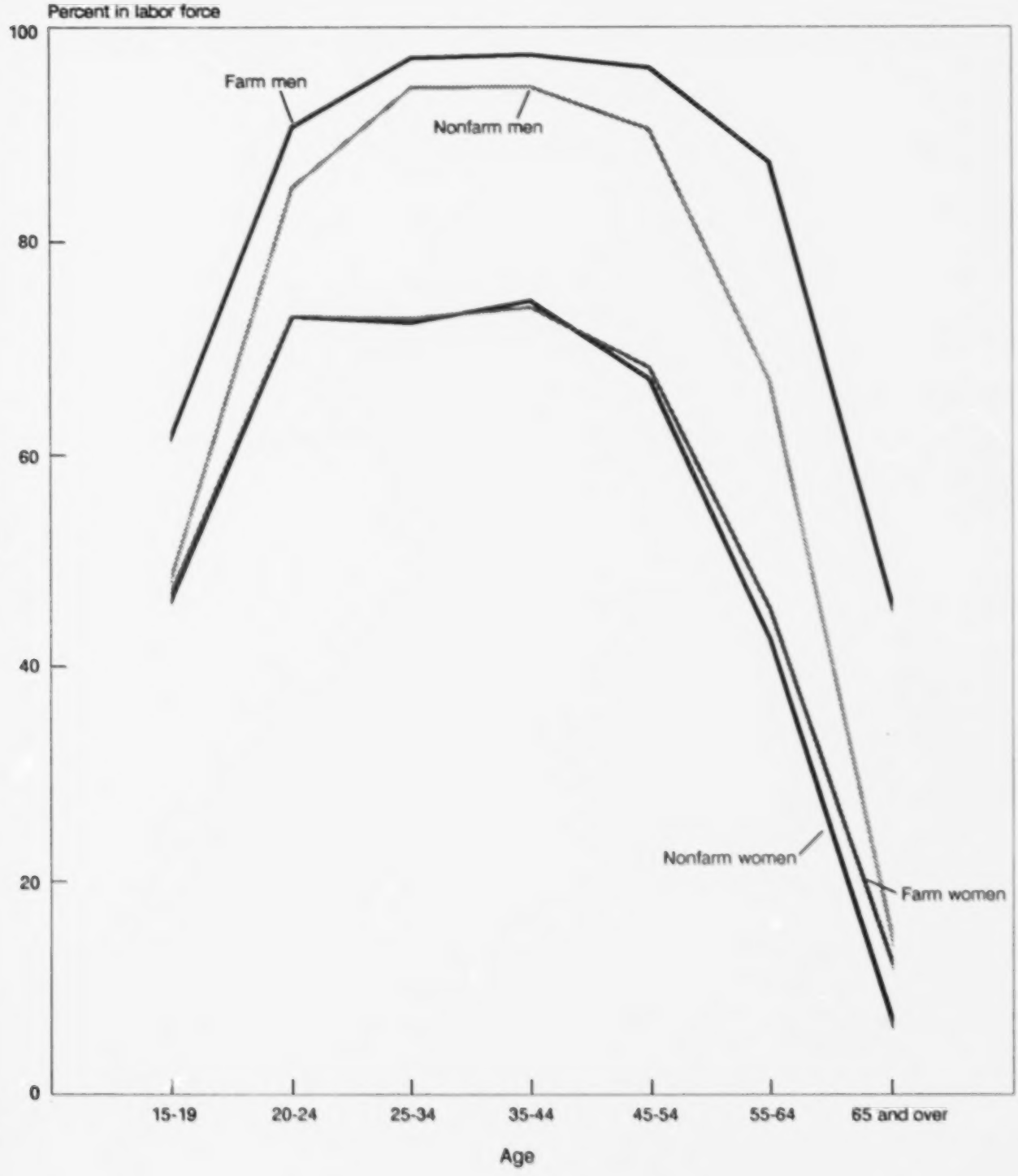
(Numbers in thousands)

Year	Total workers[1]	Farm occupations	
		Number	Percent of total
1987 (March)	110,708	3,003	2.7
1986 (March)	108,159	2,876	2.7
1985 (March)	106,214	2,949	2.8
1980	104,058	2,818	2.7
1970	79,802	2,881	3.6
1960	67,990	4,132	6.1
1950	59,230	6,858	11.6
1940	51,742	8,995	17.4
1930	48,686	10,321	21.2
1920	42,206	11,390	27.0
1910	37,291	11,533	30.9
1900	29,030	10,888	37.5
1890	23,318	9,938	42.6
1880	17,392	8,585	49.4
1870	12,925	6,850	53.0
1860	10,533	6,208	58.9
1850	7,697	4,902	63.7
1840	5,420	3,720	68.6
1830	3,932	2,772	70.5
1820	2,881	2,069	71.8

[1]Total workers for 1985 to 1987 are employed workers 15 years and over; total workers for 1970 and 1980 are members of the experienced civilian labor force 16 years and over; total workers for 1900 to 1960 are members of the experienced civilian labor force 14 years and over; and total workers for 1820 to 1890 are gainful workers 10 years and over.

Source: Figures for 1985 to 1987 are estimates for March from the Current Population Survey; figures for 1970 and 1980 are decennial census data from *Detailed Occupation of the Experienced Civilian Labor Force by Sex for the United States and Regions: 1980 and 1970*, 1980 Census of Population Supplementary Report, PC80-S1-15, March 1984. Estimates for 1820 to 1960 are from U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970, Bicentennial Edition, Part 1*, September 1975, tables D 75-84 and D 182-232.

Figure 3.
Labor Force Participation of Persons 15 Years and Over, by Age, Sex, and Farm-Nonfarm Residence: 1987



two-thirds of the category "farm workers and related occupations" were farm workers in 1980; the remaining one-third had related occupations such as groundskeepers and gardeners, and graders, sorters, and inspectors of agricultural products. Workers in this category were as likely to have urban as rural residences in 1987, whereas 9 out of every 10 farm operators and managers had rural residences (table 14).

Employed farm residents overall were a little more likely to work in nonfarm than in farm occupations as their primary job (table 13). Employed farm men, however, most often had farm jobs (61 percent), generally as farm operators and managers. Only one-fourth of farm women worked in farm occupations, with equal proportions in each category.

Employment of farm residents in nonfarm occupations differed in the two major farming regions. The pattern was more pronounced in the South than in the Midwest. In 1987, 62 percent of employed farm residents in the South worked in nonfarm jobs. The proportion was 50 percent in the Midwest (table 15).

Statistics on industry of employment for the farm population are very similar to the occupational data, since most persons working in farm occupations are classified in the agriculture industry. The proportions of employed farm residents working in agriculture and in nonagricultural industries in 1987 were about the same—48 and 52 percent, respectively (table 16). Employed farm men most often worked in agriculture (61 percent); their leading nonagricultural industry was manufacturing. Farm women were most often in nonagricultural jobs, primarily in services. More than two-thirds of agricultural workers lived in rural areas in 1987 (table 17).

Class of worker. Farm men and women show different class of worker breakdowns than their nonfarm counterparts. In 1987, farm residents of both sexes were much more likely to be self-employed or unpaid family workers than nonfarm residents and less likely to work for wages and salaries (table 18). These differences are displayed primarily among workers in the agriculture industry (figure 4). For nonagricultural workers, the distributions by sex are more similar for farm and nonfarm residents.

The predominance of self-employment in agriculture is more pronounced among farm men than women. In 1987, about 70 percent of farm men working in agriculture were self-employed, compared with 49 percent of farm women. A much lower proportion of men than women were unpaid family workers, and similar proportions of both sexes were in wage and salary jobs.

Earlier agricultural employment patterns for farm women differ significantly from those in 1987. Since 1970, when the number of farm women employed in agriculture totaled 431,000, the proportion reported as unpaid family workers dropped from 76 to 27 percent; wage and salary workers increased from 11 to 24 percent, and self-employed workers increased from 14 to 49 percent.

Self-employment is less common among rural nonfarm than rural farm workers (table 19). Even among agricultural workers, only one-third of those living in rural nonfarm areas were self-employed, compared with two-thirds of those living off farms.

Income and poverty. Money income for the year 1986 was lower for households and families living on farms than for those in nonfarm areas. The median income was $21,655 for farm households and $24,979 for nonfarm households, according to the March 1987 CPS supplement (table 20). The median income of farm families was $23,326 in 1986, just 79 percent of the nonfarm family median of $29,632. The relative concentration of farm families in the lower income levels is shown in figure 5.

There was no statistically significant change in the median income of farm families from 1985 to 1986, after adjusting for inflation. The median family income of nonfarm families, in contrast, increased by 4.3 percent.[5]

The income reported by farm households and families includes income from both farm and nonfarm sources. The Economic Research Service has estimated the sources of cash income received by households of farm operators.[6] They estimate that in 1986, about 46 percent of cash income of farm operator households came from off-farm sources. Farm operator households with annual farm sales of less than $40,000, which represent 73 percent of all farms, received 81 percent of the total off-farm income.

The March 1987 CPS showed that in 1986, 16 percent of all farm families had incomes below the poverty level, compared with 11 percent for nonfarm families (table E). The poverty rate for all farm residents, including unrelated individuals, was 20 percent, also considerably higher than the rate of 13 percent for nonfarm residents.

Data on consumer income collected in the CPS are limited to money income received before payments of Federal, State, local, or Social Security (FICA) taxes and before any other types of deductions such as union dues or Medicare premiums. Money income is the sum of amounts received from earnings; Social

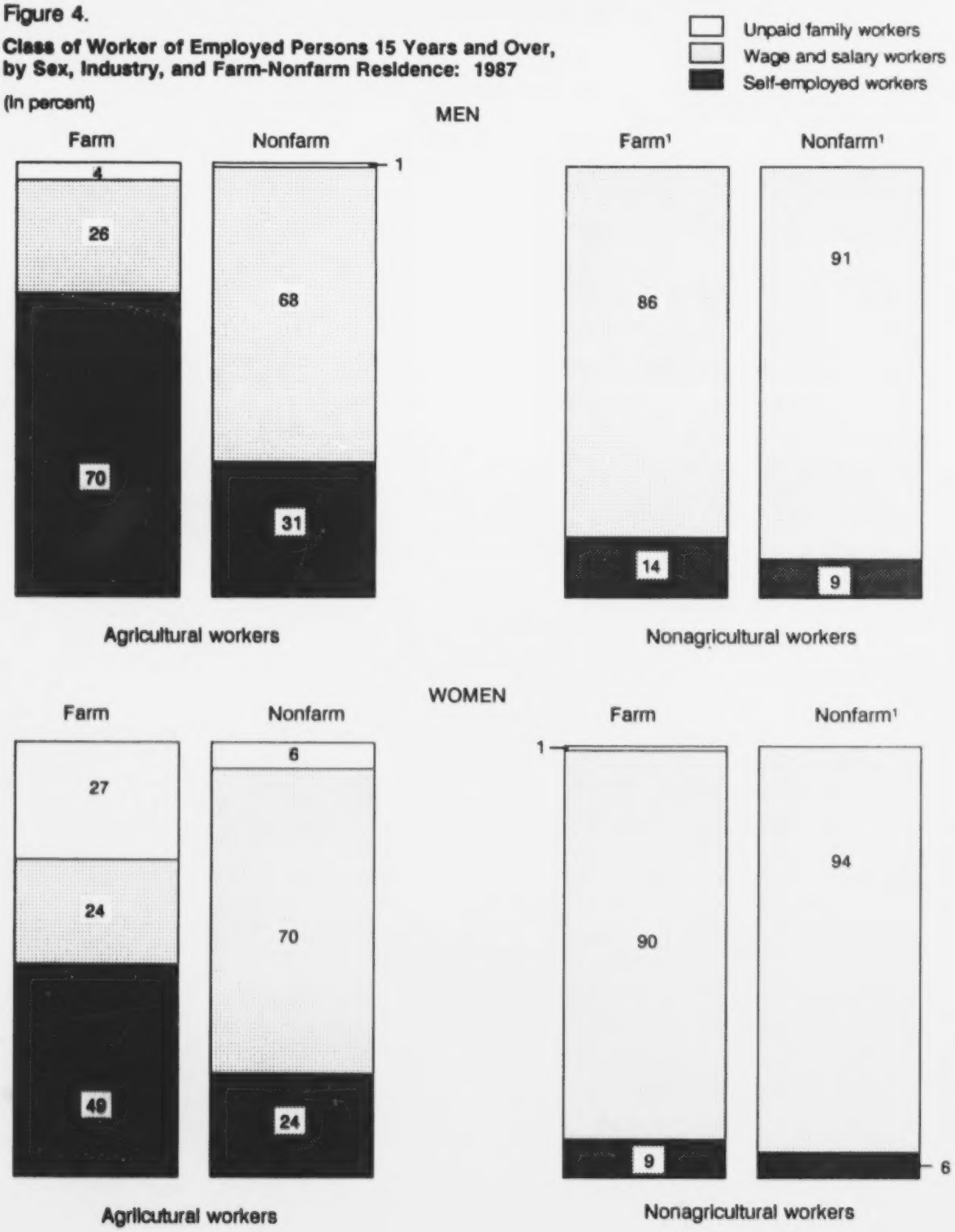
[5] U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 157, *Money Income and Poverty Status of Families and Persons in the United States: 1986 (Advance Data from the March 1987 Current Population Survey)*, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1987.

[6] U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, *Economic Indicators of the Farm Sector: National Financial Summary, 1986*, ECIFS 6-2, December 1987.

Figure 4.

Class of Worker of Employed Persons 15 Years and Over, by Sex, Industry, and Farm-Nonfarm Residence: 1987

(In percent)



[1] Unpaid family workers rounds to less than 1 percent.

Figure 5.
Income Distribution of Families, by Farm-Nonfarm Residence: 1986

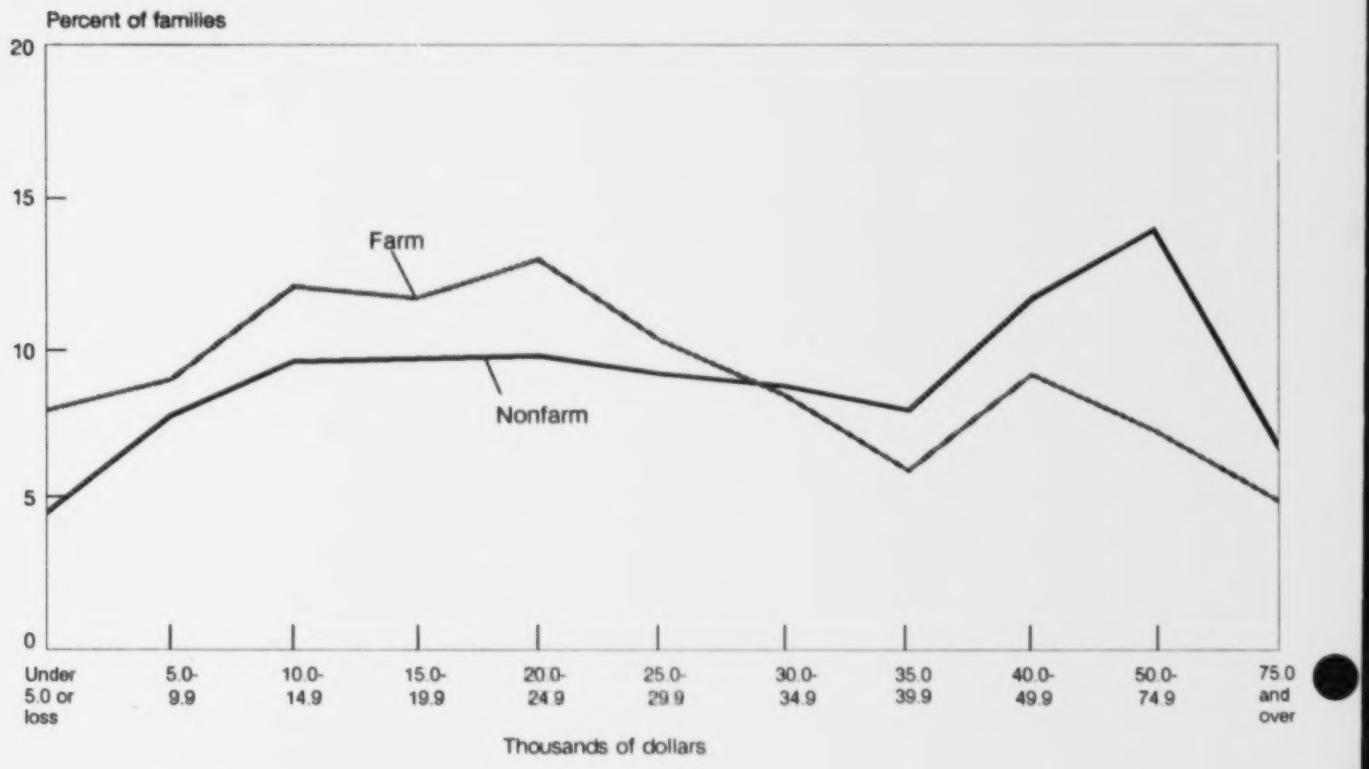


Table E. Poverty Status of Persons and Families, by Farm-Nonfarm Residence: 1986

(March 1987 Current Population Survey. Numbers in thousands. Persons and families as of March 1987)

Persons and families	Total	Farm	Nonfarm
Total persons	238,554	5,079	233,475
Below poverty level	32,370	996	31,374
Percent	13.6	19.6	13.4
Total families	64,491	1,448	63,043
Below poverty level	7,023	233	6,790
Percent	10.9	16.1	10.8

Security and public assistance payments; dividends, interest, and rent; unemployment and worker's compensations; government and private employees pensions; and other periodic income. (Certain money receipts such as capital gains are not included.) Therefore, money income does not reflect the fact that some portion of all families receive part of their income in the form of noncash benefits such as food stamps, health benefits, and subsidized housing; that some farm families receive noncash benefits in the form of rent-free housing and goods produced and consumed on the farm; or that some nonfarm residents receive noncash benefits such as the use of business transportation and facilities, full or partial payments by business for retirement programs, and medical and educational expenses. These elements should be considered when comparing income levels.

RELATED MATERIALS

Comparable figures for 1986 appear in Current Population Reports, Series P-27, No. 60, *Farm Population of the United States: 1986.* A list of publications for earlier years follows appendix B of this report.

Although not fully comparable with the Current Population Survey, data on the farm population collected in the 1980 census are available for all States on computer files (referred to as summary tape files, or STF's) as well as in published reports. Farm population data appear in STF 3 and STF 4 and in four report series and one Subject Report. The two report series based on STF 3 containing farm population data are Series PHC80-S2, *Advanced Estimates of Social, Economic, and Housing Characteristics,* and Series PHC80-4, *Congressional Districts of the 98th Congress.* The

two report series presenting farm population data based on STF 4 are Series PC80-1-C, *General Social and Economic Characteristics,* and Series HC80-1-B, *Detailed Housing Characteristics.* The Subject Report, PC80-2-9C, *Characteristics of the Rural and Farm-Related Population,* presents characteristics of the population living on farms, the population receiving farm self-employment income, and the population employed in agriculture.

Table 1. Regional Distribution of Farm Residents: 1920 to 1987

(Numbers in thousands)

Year	Total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Current Farm Definition					
1987	4,986	302	2,529	1,430	725
1986	5,226	325	2,637	1,529	735
1985	5,355	313	2,602	1,718	723
1980[1]	6,061	443	2,730	2,162	716
Previous Farm Definition					
1980[1]	7,241	487	3,252	2,629	873
1970	9,712	699	4,305	3,754	954
1960	15,635	1,119	5,836	7,160	1,520
1950	23,048	1,791	7,433	11,896	1,929
1940	30,547	2,411	9,349	16,400	2,387
1930	30,529	2,287	9,583	16,364	2,295
1920	31,974	2,537	10,158	17,063	2,216
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION					
Current Farm Definition					
1987	100.0	6.1	50.7	28.7	14.5
1986	100.0	6.2	50.5	29.3	14.1
1985	100.0	5.8	48.6	32.1	13.5
1980[1]	100.0	7.3	45.0	35.7	11.8
Previous Farm Definition					
1980[1]	100.0	6.7	44.9	36.3	12.1
1970	100.0	7.2	44.3	38.7	9.8
1960	100.0	7.2	37.3	45.8	9.7
1950	100.0	7.8	32.3	51.6	8.4
1940	100.0	7.9	30.6	53.7	7.8
1930	100.0	7.5	31.4	53.6	7.5
1920	100.0	7.9	31.8	53.4	6.9

[1]The 1980 estimates are based on the population controls from the 1970 census and thus are not directly comparable to the estimates for later years.

Source: Figures for 1960 and later years are from the Current Population Survey; figures for earlier years are from *Farm Population Estimates, 1910-70,* U.S. Department of Agriculture, Statistical Bulletin No. 523, July 1973. Annual averages for 1985 to 1987; five-quarter averages centered on April from 1960 to 1980.

Table 2. Race and Hispanic Origin of the Population, by Farm-Nonfarm Residence: 1987

(Current Population Survey annual averages. Numbers in thousands)

Race and Hispanic origin	Total	Farm	Nonfarm	Percent distribution		
				Total	Farm	Nonfarm
Total persons	[1]238,540	4,986	233,554	100.0	100.0	100.0
White	201,948	4,834	197,114	84.7	97.0	84.4
Black	28,945	123	28,821	12.1	2.5	12.3
Other races	7,647	29	7,619	3.2	0.8	3.3
Hispanic origin[2]	18,942	135	18,806	7.9	2.7	8.1

[1]The total population figure differs from that shown in table B because the latter refers to the total resident population, whereas this refers only to the civilian noninstitutional population.
[2]Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Table 3. Race and Hispanic Origin of the Population, by Urban-Rural Residence: 1987

(Current Population Survey annual averages. Numbers in thousands)

Race and Hispanic origin	Total	Urban	Rural	Rural nonfarm	Rural farm
Total persons	238,540	174,651	63,889	58,903	4,986
White	201,948	143,277	58,671	53,837	4,834
Black	28,945	24,802	4,143	4,019	123
Other races	7,647	6,572	1,075	1,047	29
Hispanic origin[1]	18,942	17,474	1,468	1,332	135
Percent Distribution					
Total persons	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White	84.7	82.0	91.8	91.4	97.0
Black	12.1	14.2	6.5	6.8	2.5
Other races	3.2	3.8	1.7	1.8	0.6
Hispanic origin[1]	7.9	10.0	2.3	2.3	2.7

[1]Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Table 4. Age and Sex of the Population, by Farm-Nonfarm Residence: 1987

(Current Population Survey annual averages. Numbers in thousands)

Age	Farm			Nonfarm		
	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female
All ages	4,986	2,598	2,387	233,554	112,833	120,721
Under 15 years	974	511	463	51,286	26,250	25,037
15 to 19 years	427	216	211	17,705	8,901	8,804
20 to 24 years	315	174	141	18,655	9,019	9,636
25 to 29 years	295	163	132	21,120	10,344	10,776
30 to 34 years	325	170	155	20,556	10,101	10,455
35 to 39 years	300	169	131	18,193	8,884	9,310
40 to 44 years	326	158	168	14,935	7,262	7,673
45 to 49 years	341	167	175	11,943	5,792	6,151
50 to 54 years	303	164	139	10,596	5,090	5,506
55 to 59 years	336	160	176	10,700	5,089	5,611
60 to 64 years	339	176	163	10,460	4,842	5,618
65 to 69 years	270	147	123	9,466	4,263	5,203
70 to 74 years	198	109	89	7,367	3,135	4,232
75 years and over	234	114	120	10,573	3,862	6,711
Median age (years)	37.8	36.9	38.5	32.0	30.9	32.9
Percent Distribution						
All ages	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 15 years	19.5	19.7	19.4	22.0	23.3	20.7
15 to 19 years	8.6	8.3	8.8	7.6	7.9	7.3
20 to 24 years	6.3	6.7	5.9	8.0	8.0	8.0
25 to 29 years	5.9	6.3	5.5	9.0	9.2	8.9
30 to 34 years	6.5	6.5	6.5	8.8	9.0	8.7
35 to 39 years	6.0	6.5	5.5	7.8	7.9	7.7
40 to 44 years	6.5	6.1	7.0	6.4	6.4	6.4
45 to 49 years	6.8	6.4	7.3	5.1	5.1	5.1
50 to 54 years	6.1	6.3	5.8	4.5	4.5	4.6
55 to 59 years	6.7	6.2	7.4	4.6	4.5	4.6
60 to 64 years	6.8	6.8	6.8	4.5	4.3	4.7
65 to 69 years	5.4	5.7	5.2	4.1	3.8	4.3
70 to 74 years	4.0	4.2	3.7	3.2	2.8	3.5
75 years and over	4.7	4.4	5.0	4.5	3.4	5.6

Table 5. Age and Sex of the Population, by Urban-Rural Residence: 1987

(Current Population Survey annual averages. Numbers in thousands)

Residence and age	Both sexes	Male	Female	Percent distribution		
				Both sexes	Male	Female
Total						
All ages	238,540	115,431	123,108	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 15 years	52,261	26,761	25,499	21.9	23.2	20.7
15 to 19 years	18,132	9,117	9,015	7.6	7.9	7.3
20 to 24 years	18,970	9,193	9,777	8.0	8.0	7.9
25 to 29 years	21,415	10,507	10,908	9.0	9.1	8.9
30 to 34 years	20,882	10,271	10,611	8.8	8.9	8.6
35 to 39 years	18,494	9,053	9,441	7.8	7.8	7.7
40 to 44 years	15,261	7,420	7,841	6.4	6.4	6.4
45 to 49 years	12,284	5,959	6,325	5.1	5.2	5.1
50 to 54 years	10,899	5,254	5,645	4.6	4.6	4.6
55 to 59 years	11,036	5,248	5,787	4.6	4.5	4.7
60 to 64 years	10,799	5,018	5,781	4.5	4.3	4.7
65 to 69 years	9,736	4,410	5,326	4.1	3.8	4.3
70 to 74 years	7,565	3,244	4,321	3.2	2.8	3.5
75 years and over	10,807	3,976	6,831	4.5	3.4	5.5
Median age (years)	32.0	31.0	33.0	(X)	(X)	(X)
Urban						
All ages	174,651	83,659	90,992	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 15 years	37,579	19,222	18,357	21.5	23.0	20.2
15 to 19 years	13,016	6,489	6,527	7.5	7.8	7.2
20 to 24 years	14,796	7,085	7,711	8.5	8.5	8.5
25 to 29 years	16,479	8,093	8,387	9.4	9.7	9.2
30 to 34 years	15,508	7,590	7,919	8.9	9.1	8.7
35 to 39 years	13,549	6,584	6,965	7.8	7.9	7.7
40 to 44 years	10,896	5,230	5,666	6.2	6.3	6.2
45 to 49 years	8,627	4,149	4,478	4.9	5.0	4.9
50 to 54 years	7,826	3,694	4,132	4.5	4.4	4.5
55 to 59 years	7,951	3,727	4,224	4.6	4.5	4.6
60 to 64 years	7,842	3,579	4,263	4.5	4.3	4.7
65 to 69 years	7,068	3,124	3,944	4.0	3.7	4.3
70 to 74 years	5,515	2,293	3,221	3.2	2.7	3.5
75 years and over	7,998	2,800	5,198	4.6	3.3	5.7
Median age (years)	31.8	30.6	32.9	(X)	(X)	(X)
Rural						
All ages	63,889	31,772	32,116	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 15 years	14,681	7,539	7,143	23.0	23.7	22.2
15 to 19 years	5,116	2,627	2,488	8.0	8.3	7.7
20 to 24 years	4,174	2,108	2,066	6.5	6.6	6.4
25 to 29 years	4,936	2,414	2,521	7.7	7.6	7.8
30 to 34 years	5,373	2,681	2,692	8.4	8.4	8.4
35 to 39 years	4,944	2,469	2,476	7.7	7.8	7.7
40 to 44 years	4,365	2,190	2,175	6.8	6.9	6.8
45 to 49 years	3,657	1,810	1,847	5.7	5.7	5.8
50 to 54 years	3,073	1,560	1,513	4.8	4.9	4.7
55 to 59 years	3,085	1,521	1,563	4.8	4.8	4.9
60 to 64 years	2,957	1,439	1,518	4.6	4.5	4.7
65 to 69 years	2,668	1,287	1,381	4.2	4.1	4.3
70 to 74 years	2,051	951	1,100	3.2	3.0	3.4
75 years and over	2,809	1,176	1,633	4.4	3.7	5.1
Median age (years)	32.8	32.2	33.4	(X)	(X)	(X)
Rural Nonfarm						
All ages	58,903	29,174	29,729	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 15 years	13,707	7,027	6,680	23.3	24.1	22.5
15 to 19 years	4,688	2,411	2,277	8.0	8.3	7.7
20 to 24 years	3,859	1,934	1,924	6.6	6.6	6.5
25 to 29 years	4,641	2,251	2,389	7.9	7.7	8.0
30 to 34 years	5,048	2,511	2,537	8.6	8.6	8.5
35 to 39 years	4,644	2,300	2,344	7.9	7.9	7.9
40 to 44 years	4,039	2,032	2,007	6.9	7.0	6.8

Table 5. Age and Sex of the Population, by Urban-Rural Residence: 1987

(Current Population Survey annual averages. Numbers in thousands)

Residence and age	Both sexes	Male	Female	Percent distribution		
				Both sexes	Male	Female
Rural Nonfarm—Continued						
45 to 49 years	3,315	1,643	1,672	5.6	5.6	5.6
50 to 54 years	2,770	1,396	1,374	4.7	4.8	4.6
55 to 59 years	2,749	1,362	1,387	4.7	4.7	4.7
60 to 64 years	2,618	1,263	1,355	4.4	4.3	4.6
65 to 69 years	2,398	1,140	1,259	4.1	3.9	4.2
70 to 74 years	1,852	842	1,010	3.1	2.9	3.4
75 years and over	2,574	1,062	1,513	4.4	3.6	5.1
Median age (years)	32.5	31.9	33.1	(X)	(X)	(X)
Rural Farm						
All ages	4,986	2,598	2,387	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 15 years	974	511	463	19.5	19.7	19.4
15 to 19 years	427	216	211	8.6	8.3	8.8
20 to 24 years	315	174	141	6.3	6.7	5.9
25 to 29 years	295	163	132	5.9	6.3	5.5
30 to 34 years	325	170	155	6.5	6.5	6.5
35 to 39 years	300	169	131	6.0	6.5	5.5
40 to 44 years	326	158	168	6.5	6.1	7.0
45 to 49 years	341	167	175	6.8	6.4	7.3
50 to 54 years	303	164	139	6.1	6.3	5.8
55 to 59 years	336	160	176	6.7	6.2	7.4
60 to 64 years	339	176	163	6.8	6.8	6.8
65 to 69 years	270	147	123	5.4	5.7	5.2
70 to 74 years	198	109	89	4.0	4.2	3.7
75 years and over	234	114	120	4.7	4.4	5.0
Median age (years)	37.6	36.9	38.5	(X)	(X)	(X)

X Not applicable.

Table 6. Marital Status, by Farm-Nonfarm Residence: March 1987

(For persons 15 years old and over. March 1987 Current Population Survey. Numbers in thousands)

Sex and marital status	Total	Farm	Nonfarm	Percent distribution		
				Total	Farm	Nonfarm
Both sexes, 15 years and over	186,688	4,105	182,583	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single	49,185	1,021	48,164	26.3	24.9	26.4
Married, spouse present	104,571	2,734	101,838	56.0	66.6	55.8
Married, spouse absent	6,053	48	6,005	3.2	1.2	3.3
Separated	4,391	30	4,361	2.4	0.7	2.4
Other	1,662	18	1,644	0.9	0.4	0.9
Widowed	13,243	199	13,044	7.1	4.8	7.1
Divorced	13,635	104	13,532	7.3	2.5	7.4
Males, 15 years and over	89,368	2,156	87,213	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single	26,786	642	26,144	30.0	29.8	30.0
Married, wife present	52,286	1,367	50,919	58.5	63.4	58.4
Married, wife absent	2,590	34	2,556	2.9	1.6	2.9
Separated	1,731	21	1,710	1.9	1.0	2.0
Other	859	13	846	1.0	0.6	1.0
Widowed	2,120	38	2,082	2.4	1.8	2.4
Divorced	5,586	75	5,511	6.3	3.5	6.3
Females, 15 years and over	97,320	1,949	95,370	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single	22,399	379	22,020	23.0	19.4	23.1
Married, husband present	52,286	1,367	50,919	53.7	70.1	53.4
Married, husband absent	3,463	14	3,449	3.6	0.7	3.6
Separated	2,660	9	2,651	2.7	0.5	2.8
Other	803	5	798	0.8	0.3	0.8
Widowed	11,123	161	10,963	11.4	8.3	11.5
Divorced	8,049	29	8,020	8.3	1.5	8.4

Table 7. Number of Households, by Farm Residence: 1940 to 1987

(Numbers in thousands)

Year	Total households	Farm households	
		Number	Percent of total
1987	89,479	1,704	1.9
1986	88,458	1,805	2.0
1980	80,776	1,919	2.4
1970	62,874	2,724	4.3
1960	52,589	5,173	9.8
1950	42,857	5,768	13.5
1940	35,087	7,077	20.2

Source: Figures for 1960 and later years are from the March Current Population Survey; figures for earlier years are from the 1940 and 1950 Censuses of Population.

Table 8. Characteristics of Families, by Farm-Nonfarm Residence: March 1987

(March 1987 Current Population Survey. Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total	Farm	Nonfarm	Percent distribution		
				Total	Farm	Nonfarm
Type						
Families	64,491	1,448	63,043	100.0	100.0	100.0
Married couple	51,537	1,355	50,182	79.9	93.6	79.6
Other, male householder	2,510	30	2,480	3.9	2.1	3.9
Other, female householder	10,445	64	10,381	16.2	4.4	16.5
Size						
Families	64,491	1,448	63,043	100.0	100.0	100.0
Two persons	26,323	611	25,712	40.8	42.2	40.8
Three persons	15,396	294	15,101	23.9	20.3	24.0
Four persons	13,620	273	13,347	21.1	18.9	21.2
Five persons	5,900	168	5,732	9.1	11.6	9.1
Six persons	2,078	52	2,035	3.2	3.6	3.2
Seven or more persons	1,176	48	1,127	1.8	3.3	1.8
Total persons	205,459	4,752	200,707	(X)	(X)	(X)
Persons per family	3.19	3.28	3.18	(X)	(X)	(X)
Own Children						
Families	64,491	1,448	63,043	100.0	100.0	100.0
With own children	32,593	851	31,742	50.5	58.8	50.3
With own children under 18	31,898	596	31,301	49.5	41.2	49.7
Average per family	1.81	2.00	1.81	(X)	(X)	(X)
With own children under 6	14,674	252	14,422	22.8	17.4	22.9
Average per family	1.33	1.32	1.33	(X)	(X)	(X)
With own children under 3	8,742	136	8,606	13.6	9.4	13.7
Average per family	1.10	1.14	1.10	(X)	(X)	(X)
Own children under 18	57,808	1,192	56,616	(X)	(X)	
Percent living with two parents	78.6	97.3	78.2	(X)	(X)	(X)

X Not applicable.

Table 9. Employment Status of Persons 15 Years and Over, by Sex and Farm-Nonfarm Residence: 1987

(Current Population Survey annual averages. Numbers in thousands)

Sex and employment status	Total	Farm	Nonfarm
Both sexes	186,279	4,012	182,267
In labor force	120,575	2,763	117,812
Percent of total	64.7	68.9	64.6
Employed	113,026	2,684	110,342
Unemployed	7,549	79	7,470
Percent of labor force	6.3	2.9	6.3
Not in labor force	65,704	1,249	64,455
Male	88,670	2,087	86,583
In labor force	66,579	1,720	64,859
Percent of total	75.1	82.4	74.9
Employed	62,409	1,679	60,730
Unemployed	4,170	41	4,129
Percent of labor force	6.3	2.4	6.4
Not in labor force	22,091	367	21,724
Female	97,609	1,925	95,685
In labor force	53,996	1,043	52,953
Percent of total	55.3	54.2	55.3
Employed	50,617	1,005	49,612
Unemployed	3,379	37	3,341
Percent of labor force	6.3	3.5	6.3
Not in labor force	43,613	882	42,731

Table 10. Employment Status of Farm and Nonfarm Residents 15 Years and Over, by Age and Sex: 1987

(Current Population Survey annual averages. Numbers in thousands)

Sex and employment status	15-19 years	20-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65 years and over
Farm							
Both sexes	427	315	620	627	645	675	702
In labor force	234	260	533	540	533	448	214
Percent of total	54.8	82.5	86.0	86.1	82.6	66.4	30.5
Employed	215	246	519	527	522	440	214
Unemployed	18	14	14	13	11	7	1
Percent of labor force	7.7	5.4	2.6	2.4	2.1	1.6	0.5
Not in labor force	194	55	87	87	112	227	488
Male	216	174	333	327	331	336	371
In labor force	134	158	324	319	319	294	172
Percent of total	62.0	90.8	97.3	97.6	96.4	87.5	46.4
Employed	126	148	317	312	314	289	172
Unemployed	8	9	7	7	4	4	1
Percent of labor force	6.0	5.7	2.2	2.2	1.3	1.4	0.6
Not in labor force	82	16	9	8	12	42	198
Female	211	141	287	299	314	339	332
In labor force	100	103	209	221	214	154	42
Percent of total	47.4	73.0	72.8	73.9	68.2	45.4	12.7
Employed	90	98	202	215	208	151	22
Unemployed	10	5	7	6	6	3	-
Percent of labor force	10.0	4.9	3.3	2.7	2.8	1.9	(B)
Not in labor force	112	39	78	78	100	185	290
Nonfarm							
Both sexes	17,705	18,655	41,676	33,128	22,538	21,159	27,406
In labor force	8,464	14,717	34,700	27,920	17,677	11,429	2,905
Percent of total	47.8	78.9	83.3	84.3	78.4	54.0	10.6
Employed	7,011	13,277	32,585	26,652	16,965	11,024	2,827
Unemployed	1,453	1,439	2,115	1,268	713	405	78
Percent of labor force	17.2	9.8	6.1	4.5	4.0	3.5	2.7
Not in labor force	9,241	3,939	6,977	5,208	4,861	9,730	24,501
Male	8,901	9,019	20,445	16,145	10,882	9,930	11,260
In labor force	4,356	7,679	19,330	15,266	9,856	6,646	1,726
Percent of total	48.9	85.1	94.5	94.6	90.6	66.9	15.3
Employed	3,563	6,909	18,167	14,585	9,435	6,392	1,678
Unemployed	793	770	1,163	681	421	253	48
Percent of labor force	18.2	10.0	6.0	4.5	4.3	3.8	2.8
Not in labor force	4,545	1,341	1,115	879	1,025	3,285	9,534
Female	8,804	9,636	21,231	16,982	11,656	11,229	16,146
In labor force	4,108	7,038	15,370	12,654	7,821	4,784	1,179
Percent of total	46.7	73.0	72.4	74.5	67.1	42.6	7.3
Employed	3,447	6,368	14,418	12,067	7,530	4,632	1,149
Unemployed	660	670	952	587	291	152	30
Percent of labor force	16.1	9.5	6.2	4.6	3.7	3.2	2.5
Not in labor force	4,696	2,598	5,861	4,329	3,835	6,445	14,967

– Represents zero or rounds to zero.
B Base is less than 75,000.

Table 11. Employment Status of Farm Residents 15 Years and Over, by Sex and Region: 1987

(Current Population Survey annual averages. Numbers in thousands)

Sex and employment status	North-east	Mid-west	South	West
Both sexes	239	2,013	1,190	569
In labor force	181	1,412	779	391
Percent of total	75.7	70.1	65.5	68.7
Employed	178	1,381	748	377
Unemployed	3	31	31	14
Percent of labor force	1.7	2.2	4.0	3.6
Not in labor force	58	600	412	178
Male	121	1,056	611	298
In labor force	106	875	490	250
Percent of total	87.6	82.9	80.2	83.9
Employed	104	859	473	243
Unemployed	1	16	17	7
Percent of labor force	0.9	1.8	3.5	2.8
Not in labor force	16	182	122	48
Female	118	958	579	271
In labor force	75	538	289	140
Percent of total	63.6	56.3	49.9	51.7
Employed	74	523	275	134
Unemployed	1	15	14	7
Percent of labor force	1.3	2.8	4.8	5.0
Not in labor force	43	419	290	131

Table 12. Employment Status of Persons 15 Years and Over, by Sex and Urban-Rural Residence: 1987

(Current Population Survey annual averages. Numbers in thousands)

Sex and employment status	Total	Urban	Rural	Rural nonfarm	Rural farm
Both sexes	186,279	137,072	49,207	45,196	4,012
In labor force	120,575	89,304	31,271	28,508	2,763
Percent of total	64.7	65.2	63.5	63.1	68.9
Employed	113,026	83,669	29,357	26,673	2,684
Unemployed	7,549	5,634	1,914	1,836	79
Percent of labor force	6.3	6.3	6.1	6.4	2.9
Not in labor force	65,704	47,768	17,936	16,687	1,249
Male	88,670	64,436	24,234	22,147	2,087
In labor force	66,579	48,618	17,961	16,241	1,720
Percent of total	75.1	75.5	74.1	73.3	82.4
Employed	62,409	45,536	16,873	15,194	1,679
Unemployed	4,170	3,082	1,088	1,047	41
Percent of labor force	6.3	6.3	6.1	6.4	2.4
Not in labor force	22,091	15,818	6,273	5,906	367
Female	97,609	72,635	24,974	23,049	1,925
In labor force	53,996	40,686	13,310	12,268	1,043
Percent of total	55.3	56.0	53.3	53.2	54.2
Employed	50,617	38,133	12,484	11,479	1,005
Unemployed	3,379	2,553	826	789	37
Percent of labor force	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.4	3.5
Not in labor force	43,613	31,950	11,663	10,781	882

Table 13. Occupation of Employed Persons 15 Years and Over, by Sex and Farm-Nonfarm Residence: 1987

(Current Population Survey annual averages. Numbers in thousands)

Sex and occupation	Total	Farm	Nonfarm	Percent distribution		
				Total	Farm	Nonfarm
Both sexes	113,026	2,684	110,342	100.0	100.0	100.0
Farm occupations	3,420	1,261	2,159	3.0	47.0	2.0
Farm operators and managers	1,320	902	418	1.2	33.6	0.4
Farm workers and related occupations	2,100	359	1,741	1.9	13.4	1.6
Nonfarm occupations	109,606	1,423	108,183	97.0	53.0	98.0
Male	62,409	1,679	60,730	100.0	100.0	100.0
Farm occupations	2,868	1,021	1,846	4.6	60.8	3.0
Farm operators and managers	1,123	774	349	1.8	46.1	0.6
Farm workers and related occupations	1,745	247	1,497	2.8	14.7	2.5
Nonfarm occupations	59,541	658	58,884	95.4	39.2	97.0
Female	50,617	1,005	49,612	100.0	100.0	100.0
Farm occupations	551	239	312	1.1	23.8	0.6
Farm operators and managers	196	128	69	0.4	12.7	0.1
Farm workers and related occupations	355	111	243	0.7	11.0	0.5
Nonfarm occupations	50,066	766	49,300	98.9	76.2	99.4

Table 14. Occupation of Employed Persons 15 Years and Over, by Sex and Urban-Rural Residence: 1987

(Current Population Survey annual averages. Numbers in thousands)

Sex and occupation	Total	Urban	Rural	Rural nonfarm	Rural farm	Percent distribution				
						Total	Urban	Rural	Rural nonfarm	Rural farm
Both sexes	113,026	83,669	29,357	26,673	2,684	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Farming, forestry, and fishing	3,597	1,221	2,376	1,107	1,269	3.2	1.5	8.1	4.2	4
Farm operators and managers	1,320	122	1,197	295	902	1.2	0.1	4.1	1.1	33.6
Farm workers and related occupations	2,100	1,047	1,053	694	359	1.9	1.3	3.6	2.6	13.4
Managerial and professional specialty	27,755	22,098	5,657	5,363	294	24.6	26.4	19.3	20.1	11.0
Technical, sales, and administrative support	35,212	27,539	7,673	7,215	458	31.2	32.9	26.1	27.0	17.1
Service	15,336	11,630	3,706	3,515	191	13.6	13.9	12.6	13.2	7.1
Precision, production, craft, and repair	13,578	9,297	4,281	4,099	182	12.0	11.1	14.6	15.4	6.8
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	17,548	11,884	5,664	5,374	290	15.5	14.2	19.3	20.1	10.8
Male	62,409	45,536	16,873	15,194	1,679	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Farming, forestry, and fishing	3,033	1,067	1,966	938	1,028	4.9	2.3	11.7	6.2	61.2
Farm operators and managers	1,123	104	1,019	245	774	1.8	0.2	6.0	1.6	46.1
Farm workers and related occupations	1,745	912	832	585	247	2.8	2.0	4.9	3.9	14.7
Managerial and professional specialty	15,463	12,313	3,149	3,022	127	24.8	27.0	18.7	19.9	7.6
Technical, sales, and administrative support	12,443	9,907	2,537	2,420	117	19.9	21.8	15.0	15.9	7.0
Service	6,018	4,842	1,177	1,143	34	9.6	10.6	7.0	7.5	2.0
Precision, production, craft, and repair	12,424	8,485	3,939	3,777	162	19.9	18.6	23.3	24.9	9.6
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	13,026	8,923	4,105	3,894	211	20.9	19.6	24.3	25.6	12.6
Female	50,617	38,133	12,484	11,479	1,005	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Farming, forestry, and fishing	564	154	410	169	241	1.1	0.4	3.3	1.5	24.0
Farm operators and managers	196	18	179	51	128	0.4	-	1.4	0.4	12.7
Farm workers and related occupations	355	135	220	109	111	0.7	0.4	1.8	0.9	11.0
Managerial and professional specialty	12,293	9,785	2,508	2,341	167	24.3	25.7	20.1	20.4	16.6
Technical, sales, and administrative support	22,768	17,632	5,136	4,795	341	45.0	46.2	41.1	41.8	33.9
Service	9,318	6,788	2,529	2,372	157	18.4	17.8	20.3	20.7	15.6
Precision, production, craft, and repair	1,154	812	341	322	19	2.3	2.1	2.7	2.8	1.9
Operators, fabricators and laborers	4,520	2,961	1,559	1,480	79	8.9	7.8	12.5	12.9	7.9

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.

Table 15. Occupation of Employed Farm Residents 15 Years and Over, by Sex and Region: 1987

(Current Population Survey annual averages. Numbers in thousands)

Sex and occupation	Total	North-east	Mid-west	South	West	Percent distribution				
						Total	North-east	Mid-west	South	West
Both sexes	2,684	178	1,381	748	377	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Farming, forestry, and fishing	1,269	88	691	285	205	47.3	49.4	50.0	38.1	54.4
Farm operators and managers	902	57	525	194	126	33.6	32.0	38.0	25.9	33.4
Farm workers and related occupations	359	31	164	89	75	13.4	17.4	11.9	11.9	19.9
Managerial and professional specialty	294	20	130	99	46	11.0	11.2	9.4	13.2	12.2
Technical, sales, and administrative support	458	27	220	150	61	17.1	15.2	15.9	20.1	16.2
Service	191	14	111	44	23	7.1	7.9	8.0	5.9	6.1
Precision, production, craft, and repair	182	15	90	63	14	6.8	8.4	6.5	8.4	3.7
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	290	15	139	107	29	10.8	8.4	10.1	14.3	7.7
Male	1,679	104	859	473	243	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Farming, forestry, and fishing	1,028	63	559	237	169	61.2	60.6	65.1	50.1	69.5
Farm operators and managers	774	46	455	166	107	46.1	44.2	53.0	35.1	44.0
Farm workers and related occupations	247	17	103	68	60	14.7	16.3	12.0	14.4	24.7
Managerial and professional specialty	127	8	47	49	24	7.6	7.7	5.5	10.4	9.9
Technical, sales, and administrative support	117	6	49	51	10	7.0	5.8	5.7	10.8	4.1
Service	34	3	16	9	6	2.0	2.9	1.9	1.9	2.5
Precision, production, craft, and repair	162	13	82	54	13	9.6	12.5	9.5	11.4	5.3
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	211	11	106	74	20	12.6	10.6	12.3	15.6	8.2
Female	1,005	74	523	275	134	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Farming, forestry, and fishing	241	25	132	49	35	24.0	(B)	25.2	17.8	26.1
Farm operators and managers	128	11	70	27	19	12.7	(B)	13.4	9.8	14.2
Farm workers and related occupations	111	14	62	21	15	11.0	(B)	11.9	7.6	11.2
Managerial and professional specialty	167	11	83	50	22	16.6	(B)	15.9	18.2	16.4
Technical, sales, and administrative support	341	21	171	99	51	33.9	(B)	32.7	36.0	38.1
Service	157	11	95	35	16	15.6	(B)	18.2	12.7	11.9
Precision, production, craft, and repair	19	2	9	9	1	1.9	(B)	1.7	3.3	0.7
Operators, fabricators and laborers	79	4	33	34	8	7.9	(B)	6.3	12.4	6.0

B Base is less than 75,000.

Table 16. Industry of Employed Farm Residents 15 Years and Over, by Sex and Region: 1987

(Current Population Survey annual averages. Numbers in thousands)

Sex and industry	Total	North-east	Mid-west	South	West	Percent distribution				
						Total	North-east	Mid-west	South	West
Both sexes	2,684	178	1,381	748	377	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	1,297	92	705	288	212	48.3	51.7	51.0	38.5	56.2
Nonagricultural industries	1,387	86	677	460	164	51.7	48.3	49.0	61.5	43.5
Nonagricultural industries	1,387	86	677	460	164	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Forestry and fisheries	12	-	1	4	6	0.9	-	0.1	0.9	3.7
Mining	16	1	5	8	2	1.2	1.2	0.7	1.7	1.2
Construction	115	9	52	41	13	8.3	10.5	7.7	8.9	7.9
Manufacturing	283	17	143	106	17	20.4	19.8	21.1	23.0	10.4
Transportation, communications, and other public utilities	95	6	42	30	17	6.8	7.0	6.2 6.5	10.4	
Wholesale trade	78	3	41	20	13	5.6	3.5	6.1	4.3	7.9
Retail trade	201	13	105	62	21	14.5	15.1	15.5	13.5	12.8
Finance, insurance, and real estate	82	2	37	34	9	5.9	2.3	5.5	7.4	5.5
Service industries	451	32	229	130	60	32.5	37.2	33.8	28.3	36.6
Public administration	56	3	21	24	7	4.0	3.5	3.1	5.2	4.3
Male	1,679	104	859	473	243	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	1,029	64	560	235	170	61.3	61.5	65.2	49.7	70.0
Nonagricultural industries	650	40	299	238	73	38.7	38.5	34.8	50.3	30.0
Nonagricultural industries	650	40	299	238	73	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Forestry and fisheries	8	-	1	4	4	1.2	(B)	0.3	1.7	(B)
Mining	15	1	5	7	2	2.3	(B)	1.7	2.9	(B)
Construction	99	7	47	34	11	15.2	(B)	15.7	14.3	(B)
Manufacturing	179	12	96	63	8	27.5	(B)	32.1	26.5	(B)
Transportation, communications and other public utilities	65	4	29	22	9	10.0	(B)	9.7	9.2	(B)
Wholesale trade	54	3	28	15	8	8.3	(B)	9.4	6.3	(B)
Retail trade	66	3	30	27	6	10.2	(B)	10.0	11.3	(B)
Finance, insurance, and real estate	28	1	11	13	4	4.3	(B)	3.7	5.5	(B)
Service industries	105	7	45	37	16	16.2	(B)	15.1	15.5	(B)
Public administration	30	2	8	16	3	4.6	(B)	2.7	6.7	(B)
Female	1,005	74	523	275	134	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	268	28	144	53	42	26.7	(B)	27.5	19.3	31.3
Nonagricultural industries	737	46	378	222	92	73.3	(B)	72.3	80.7	68.7
Nonagricultural industries	737	46	378	222	92	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Forestry and fisheries	3	-	-	1	2	0.4	(B)	-	0.5	2.2
Mining	1	-	-	1	-	0.1	(B)	-	0.5	-
Construction	16	2	5	7	2	2.2	(B)	1.3	3.2	2.2
Manufacturing	104	4	47	44	8	14.1	(B)	12.4	19.8	8.7
Transportation, communications and other public utilities	30	2	13	8	7	4.1	(B)	3.4	3.6	7.6
Wholesale trade	24	1	14	5	5	3.3	(B)	3.7	2.3	5.4
Retail trade	134	10	75	35	14	18.2	(B)	19.8	15.8	15.2
Finance, insurance, and real estate	53	1	26	21	5	7.2	(B)	6.9	9.5	5.4
Service industries	345	24	185	93	44	46.8	(B)	48.9	41.9	47.8
Public administration	26	2	13	8	4	3.5	(B)	3.4	3.6	4.3

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.
B Base is less than 75,000.

Table 17. Industry of Employed Persons 15 Years and Over, by Sex and Urban-Rural Residence: 1987

(Current Population Survey annual averages. Numbers in thousands)

Sex and industry	Total	Urban	Rural	Rural nonfarm	Rural farm	Percent distribution				
						Total	Urban	Rural	Rural nonfarm	Rural farm
Both sexes	113,026	83,669	29,357	28,673	2,684	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	3,261	1,004	2,257	960	1,297	2.9	1.2	7.7	3.6	48.3
Nonagricultural industries	109,765	82,665	27,099	25,712	1,387	97.1	98.8	92.3	96.4	51.7
Nonagricultural industries	109,765	82,665	27,099	25,712	1,387	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Forestry and fisheries	193	77	116	104	12	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.9
Mining	818	415	403	387	16	0.7	0.5	1.5	1.5	1.2
Construction	7,469	5,031	2,438	2,323	115	6.8	6.1	9.0	9.0	8.3
Manufacturing	20,979	14,784	6,194	5,911	283	19.1	17.9	22.9	23.0	20.4
Transportation, communications, and other public utilities	7,886	5,977	1,909	1,814	95	7.2	7.2	7.0	7.1	6.8
Wholesale trade	4,585	3,465	1,120	1,042	78	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.1	5.6
Retail trade	19,008	14,553	4,455	4,254	201	17.3	17.6	16.4	16.5	14.5
Finance, insurance, and real estate	7,771	6,415	1,357	1,275	82	7.1	7.8	5.0	5.0	5.9
Service industries	35,806	27,886	7,921	7,470	451	32.6	33.7	29.2	29.1	32.5
Public administration	5,250	4,063	1,187	1,131	56	4.8	4.9	4.4	4.4	4.0
Male	62,409	45,536	16,873	15,194	1,679	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	2,596	798	1,798	769	1,029	4.1	1.8	10.6	5.0	61.3
Nonagricultural industries	59,823	44,739	15,085	14,435	650	95.9	98.2	89.4	95.0	38.7
Nonagricultural industries	59,823	44,739	15,085	14,435	650	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Forestry and fisheries	154	63	90	82	8	0.3	0.1	0.6	0.6	1.2
Mining	695	327	368	353	15	1.2	0.7	2.4	2.4	2.3
Construction	6,803	4,552	2,251	2,152	99	11.4	10.2	14.9	14.9	15.2
Manufacturing	14,096	9,977	4,119	3,940	179	23.6	22.3	27.3	27.3	27.5
Transportation, communications and other public utilities	5,763	4,298	1,465	1,400	65	9.6	9.6	9.7	9.7	10.0
Wholesale trade	3,304	2,452	852	798	54	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.5	8.3
Retail trade	9,115	7,110	2,004	1,938	66	15.2	15.9	13.3	13.4	10.2
Finance, insurance, and real estate	3,165	2,658	506	478	28	5.3	5.9	3.4	3.3	4.3
Service industries	13,651	10,928	2,723	2,618	105	22.8	24.4	18.1	18.1	16.2
Public administration	3,077	2,374	703	673	30	5.1	5.3	4.7	4.7	4.6
Female	50,617	38,133	12,484	11,479	1,005	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	675	207	469	201	268	1.3	0.5	3.8	1.8	26.7
Nonagricultural industries	49,942	37,926	12,015	11,278	737	98.7	99.5	96.2	98.2	73.3
Nonagricultural industries	49,942	37,926	12,015	11,278	737	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Forestry and fisheries	39	14	26	22	3	0.1	-	0.2	0.2	0.4
Mining	123	88	35	34	1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.1
Construction	665	479	186	170	16	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.5	2.2
Manufacturing	6,883	4,808	2,075	1,971	104	13.8	12.7	17.3	17.5	14.1
Transportation, communications, and other public utilities	2,122	1,679	444	414	30	4.2	4.4	3.7	3.7	4.1
Wholesale trade	1,281	1,013	268	244	24	2.6	2.7	2.2	2.2	3.3
Retail trade	9,894	7,443	2,450	2,316	134	19.8	19.6	20.4	20.5	18.2
Finance, insurance, and real estate	4,606	3,756	849	726	53	9.2	9.9	7.1	7.1	7.2
Service industries	22,155	16,958	5,197	4,852	345	44.4	44.7	43.3	43.0	46.8
Public administration	2,173	1,689	484	458	26	4.4	4.5	4.0	4.1	3.5

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.

Table 18. Class of Worker of Employed Persons 15 Years and Over, by Industry, Sex, and Farm-Nonfarm Residence: 1987

(Current Population Survey annual averages. Numbers in thousands)

Industry, sex, and class of worker	Total	Farm	Nonfarm	Percent distribution		
				Total	Farm	Nonfarm
Total Workers						
Both sexes	113,026	2,684	110,342	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	9,660	1,009	8,651	8.5	37.6	7.8
Wage and salary workers	102,942	1,547	101,395	91.1	57.6	91.9
Unpaid family workers	424	128	296	0.4	4.8	0.3
Male	62,409	1,679	60,730	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	6,646	808	5,838	10.6	48.1	9.6
Wage and salary workers	55,656	823	54,834	89.2	49.0	90.3
Unpaid family workers	107	48	58	0.2	2.9	0.1
Female	50,617	1,005	49,612	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	3,014	201	2,813	6.0	20.0	5.7
Wage and salary workers	47,286	724	46,562	93.4	72.0	93.9
Unpaid family workers	318	80	238	0.6	8.0	0.5
Workers in Agriculture						
Both sexes	3,261	1,297	1,965	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	1,432	848	584	43.9	65.4	29.7
Wage and salary workers	1,668	330	1,337	51.1	25.4	68.0
Unpaid family workers	162	118	44	5.0	9.1	2.2
Male	2,586	1,029	1,557	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	1,202	716	486	46.5	69.6	31.2
Wage and salary workers	1,318	267	1,051	51.0	25.9	67.5
Unpaid family workers	66	46	20	2.6	4.5	1.3
Female	675	268	408	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	229	132	98	33.9	49.3	24.0
Wage and salary workers	350	63	286	51.9	23.5	70.1
Unpaid family workers	96	72	24	14.2	26.9	5.9
Workers in Nonagricultural Industries						
Both sexes	109,765	1,387	108,377	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	8,228	161	8,067	7.5	11.6	7.4
Wage and salary workers	101,274	1,216	100,058	92.3	87.7	92.3
Unpaid family workers	262	10	252	0.2	0.7	0.2
Male	59,823	650	59,173	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	5,444	92	5,352	9.1	14.2	9.0
Wage and salary workers	54,338	556	53,783	90.8	85.5	90.9
Unpaid family workers	41	2	39	0.1	0.3	0.1
Female	49,942	737	49,204	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	2,784	69	2,715	5.6	9.4	5.5
Wage and salary workers	46,936	660	46,276	94.0	89.6	94.0
Unpaid family workers	221	8	214	0.4	1.1	0.4

Table 19. Class of Worker of Employed Persons 15 Years and Over, by Industry, Sex, and Urban-Rural Residence: 1987

(Current Population Survey annual averages. Numbers in thousands)

Industry, sex, and class of worker	Total	Urban	Rural	Rural nonfarm	Rural farm	Percent distribution				
						Total	Urban	Rural	Rural nonfarm	Rural farm
Total Workers										
Both sexes	113,026	83,669	29,357	26,673	2,684	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	9,660	6,893	3,767	2,758	1,009	8.5	7.0	12.8	10.3	37.6
Wage and salary workers	102,942	77,602	25,340	23,794	1,547	91.1	92.7	86.3	89.2	57.6
Unpaid family workers	424	174	250	122	128	0.4	0.2	0.9	0.5	4.8
Male	62,409	45,536	16,873	15,194	1,679	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	6,646	3,969	2,677	1,869	808	10.6	8.7	15.9	12.3	48.1
Wage and salary workers	55,656	41,539	14,117	13,295	823	89.2	91.2	83.7	87.5	49.0
Unpaid family workers	107	28	78	30	48	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.2	2.9
Female	50,617	38,133	12,484	11,479	1,005	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	3,014	1,924	1,089	888	201	6.0	5.0	8.7	7.7	20.0
Wage and salary workers	47,286	36,063	11,223	10,499	724	93.4	94.6	89.9	91.5	72.0
Unpaid family workers	318	146	172	92	80	0.6	0.4	1.4	0.8	8.0
Workers in Agriculture										
Both sexes	3,261	1,004	2,257	960	1,297	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	1,432	270	1,162	313	848	43.9	26.9	51.5	32.6	65.4
Wage and salary workers	1,668	723	944	614	330	51.1	72.0	41.8	64.0	25.4
Unpaid family workers	162	11	151	33	118	5.0	1.1	6.7	3.4	9.1
Male	2,586	798	1,789	759	1,029	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	1,202	235	968	251	716	46.5	29.4	54.1	33.1	69.6
Wage and salary workers	1,318	560	758	491	267	51.0	70.2	42.4	64.7	25.9
Unpaid family workers	66	3	63	17	46	2.6	0.4	3.5	2.2	4.5
Female	675	207	469	201	268	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	229	35	194	62	132	33.9	16.9	41.4	30.8	49.3
Wage and salary workers	350	163	186	123	63	51.9	78.7	39.7	61.2	23.5
Unpaid family workers	96	8	88	16	72	14.2	3.9	18.8	8.0	26.9
Workers in Nonagricultural Industries										
Both sexes	109,765	82,665	27,100	25,712	1,387	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	8,228	6,623	2,605	2,444	161	7.5	8.8	9.6	9.5	11.6
Wage and salary workers	101,274	76,879	24,396	23,180	1,216	92.3	93.0	90.0	90.2	87.7
Unpaid family workers	262	164	99	88	10	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.7
Male	59,823	44,739	15,084	14,435	650	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	5,444	3,734	1,710	1,618	92	9.1	8.3	11.3	11.2	14.2
Wage and salary workers	54,338	40,979	13,359	12,804	556	90.8	91.6	88.6	88.7	85.5
Unpaid family workers	41	26	15	13	2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3
Female	49,942	37,927	12,015	11,278	737	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Self-employed workers	2,784	1,889	895	826	69	5.6	5.0	7.4	7.3	9.4
Wage and salary workers	46,936	35,900	11,036	10,376	660	94.0	94.7	91.9	92.0	89.6
Unpaid family workers	221	138	83	76	8	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.7	1.1

Table 20. Income of Households and Families, by Farm-Nonfarm Residence: 1986

(March 1987 Current Population Survey. Numbers in thousands. Families and households as of March 1987)

Total money income	Households			Families		
	Total	Farm	Nonfarm	Total	Farm	Nonfarm
Total (thousands)	89,479	1,704	87,775	64,491	1,448	63,043
Under $5,000	6,657	167	6,490	3,008	116	2,893
$5,000 to 9,999	10,473	201	10,272	5,022	131	4,893
$10,000 to 14,999	9,854	214	9,640	6,232	175	6,057
$15,000 to 19,999	9,303	185	9,118	6,277	169	6,108
$20,000 to 24,999	8,617	217	8,401	6,336	188	6,148
$25,000 to 29,999	7,733	155	7,578	5,971	149	5,822
$30,000 to 34,999	7,078	126	6,953	5,683	123	5,561
$35,000 to 39,999	6,089	97	5,992	5,116	87	5,030
$40,000 to 49,999	8,667	148	8,519	7,516	133	7,383
$50,000 to 74,999	10,085	119	9,966	8,922	106	8,816
$75,000 and over	4,922	75	4,847	4,406	73	4,333
Median income (dollars)	24,897	21,655	24,979	29,458	23,326	29,632
Mean income (dollars)	30,759	27,560	30,821	34,924	29,298	35,054
Percent distribution:						
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under $5,000	7.4	9.8	7.4	4.7	8.0	4.6
$5,000 to 9,999	11.7	11.8	11.7	7.8	9.0	7.8
$10,000 to 14,999	11.0	12.6	11.0	9.7	12.1	9.6
$15,000 to 19,999	10.4	10.9	10.4	9.7	11.7	9.7
$20,000 to 24,999	9.6	12.7	9.6	9.8	13.0	9.8
$25,000 to 29,999	8.6	9.1	8.6	9.3	10.3	9.2
$30,000 to 34,999	7.9	7.4	7.9	8.8	8.5	8.8
$35,000 to 39,999	6.8	5.7	6.8	7.9	6.0	8.0
$40,000 to 49,999	9.7	8.7	9.7	11.7	9.2	11.7
$50,000 to 74,999	11.3	7.0	11.4	13.8	7.3	14.0
$75,000 and over	5.5	4.4	5.5	6.8	5.0	6.9

Appendix A. Definitions and Explanations

Population coverage. The total population figures shown in table B relate to the resident population of the United States. The farm population numbers in tables B and 1 and the population and household numbers in tables D and 7 and figure 2 are a combination of counts from decennial censuses and estimates restricted to the civilian noninstitutional population from the Current Population Survey. All estimates shown in tables A, C, 2 to 5, and 9 to 19 and in figures 1, 3, and 4 relate solely to the civilian noninstitutional population. The estimates shown in tables E, 6, 8, and 20 and in figure 5 relate to the civilian noninstitutional population plus members of the Armed Forces in the United States living off post or with their families on post.

Farm population. In the Current Population Survey, the farm population as currently defined consists of all persons living in rural territory on places from which $1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold during the preceding 12 months. Persons living in summer camps, motels, and tourist camps are classified as nonfarm. The current definition was introduced into the P-27 series beginning with the 1978 farm population report.

Under the previous farm definition, the farm population consists of all persons living in rural territory on places of 10 or more acres if at least $50 worth of agricultural products were sold from the place during the preceding 12 months. Persons living on places of under 10 acres were also included if agricultural sales totaled $250 or more.

Persons living on farms located within the boundaries of urban territory are not included in the farm population. Estimates of the farm population in the 1963 through 1971 Current Population Surveys were limited to rural territory as determined in the 1960 Census of Population. For 1972 through 1983, the urban-rural boundaries used were those of the 1970 Census of Population. The 1984 and 1985 annual averages of rural farm population are based on a mixture of urban and rural geography from the 1970 and 1980 population censuses. During the period April 1984 through June 1985, the Bureau of the Census systematically introduced a new sample design for the Current Population Survey reflecting the results of the 1980 census. For the phase-in period, the urban and rural estimates were derived from a mix of the two sample designs. The 1986 and 1987 annual averages are based on the urban and rural geography from the 1980 population census.

Nonfarm population. The nonfarm population includes rural persons not living on farms plus the urban population.

Annual averages. Annual estimates are computed by averaging monthly data for the calendar year for which the estimates are prepared. Each of the 12 months is given equal weight.

Five-quarter averages centered on April. April-centered annual averages of the farm population are computed by using data for the five quarters centered on the April date for which the estimates are prepared. For example, for April 1983, quarterly estimates for the months of October 1982, and January, April, July, and October 1983 were used with a weight of one-eighth given to each of the two October estimates and a weight of one-fourth to each of the estimates for the other three months.

Urban-rural residence. The 1987 CPS annual averages are based on the urban and rural geography delineated for the 1980 census. No changes have been made in the classification of urban and rural territory since the 1980 census.

According to the 1980 census definition, the urban population comprises all persons living in (a) places of 2,500 or more inhabitants incorporated as cities, villages, boroughs (except in Alaska and New York), and towns (except in the New England States, New York, and Wisconsin), but excluding those persons living in the rural portions of extended cities (places with low population density in one or more large parts of their area); (b) census designated places (previously termed unincorporated) of 2,500 or more inhabitants; and (c) other territory, incorporated or unincorporated, included in urbanized areas. An urbanized area consists of a central city or a central core, together with contiguous closely settled territory, that combined have a total population of at least 50,000.

The population not classified as urban constitutes the rural population. The farm population is identified only in rural territory, and the rural farm population constitutes only a part of the total rural population.

Geographic regions. The four major regions of the United States for which data are presented consist of the following States:

Northeast: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont.

Midwest: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin.

South: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia.

West: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.

Metropolitan-nonmetropolitan residence. The population residing in metropolitan statistical areas (MSA's) constitutes the metropolitan population. MSA's are defined by the Office of Management and Budget for use in the presentation of statistics by agencies of the Federal Government. An MSA is a geographic area consisting of a large population nucleus, together with adjacent communities which have a high degree of economic and social integration with that nucleus. The definitions specify a boundary around each large city so as to include most or all its suburbs. Entire counties form the MSA building blocks, except in New England where cities and towns are used. The former term SMSA was changed to MSA in 1983.

An area qualifies for recognition as an MSA if (1) it includes a city of at least 50,000 population, or (2) it includes a Census Bureau-defined urbanized area of at least 50,000 with a total metropolitan population of at least 100,000 (75,000 in New England). In addition to the county containing the main city or urbanized area, an MSA may include other counties having strong commuting ties to the central county. If specified conditions are met, certain large MSA's are designated as consolidated MSA's (CMSA's) and divided into component primary MSA's (PMSA's).

In July 1985, the CPS began carrying the metropolitan statistical area definitions announced by the Office of Management and Budget on June 30, 1984. Figures published from the CPS in the early 1980's and throughout most of the 1970's referred to metropolitan areas as defined on the basis of the 1970 census. Since there are important differences in the population classified as metropolitan using the 1970 and 1984 definitions, comparisons should be avoided.

The new CPS metropolitan estimates have consistently been higher than independent estimates of the metropolitan population prepared by the Census Bureau; the new CPS nonmetropolitan estimates have been lower than the independent estimates. For example, between July 1985 and August 1986, the magnitude of the monthly differences varied from 900,000 to 2.5 million persons, so that the proportion of the population living in metropolitan areas according to the CPS has ranged from 0.4 to 1.0 percentage points higher than the independent estimate. The difference in level between the two sets of estimates is partially attributable to the basic CPS sample design, which, because of sampling variability, includes an oversample of metropolitan households and an undersample of nonmetropolitan households. The monthly variations result from the exit and entrance of rotation groups, each with slightly different metropolitan-nonmetropolitan proportions, into the sample. The apparent overestimation of metropolitan and underestimation of nonmetropolitan population in the CPS relative to the Bureau's independent estimates should be taken into account when using the data.

Race. The population is divided into three groups on the basis of race: White, Black, and "other races." The last category includes Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and any other race except White and Black.

Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin are those who indicate that their origin is Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or some other Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Age. The age classification is based on the age of the person at last birthday.

Median age. The median age is the age which divides the population into two equal-size groups, one younger and the other older than the median.

Marital status. The marital status classification identifies four major categories: single (never married), married, widowed, and divorced. These terms refer to the marital status at the time of the enumeration.

The category "married" is further divided into "married, spouse present," "separated," and "other married, spouse absent." A person was classified as "married, spouse present" if the husband or wife was reported as a member of the household, even though he or she may have been temporarily absent on business or on vacation, visiting, in a hospital, etc., at the time of the enumeration. Persons reported as separated included those with legal separations, those living apart with intentions of obtaining a divorce, and other persons permanently or temporarily separated because of marital discord. The group "other married, spouse absent" includes married persons living apart because either the husband or wife was employed and living at

a considerable distance from home, was serving away from home in the Armed Forces, had moved to another area, or had a different place of residence for any other reason except separation as defined above.

Household. A household consists of all the persons who occupy a housing unit. A house, an apartment or other group of rooms, or a single room, is regarded as a housing unit when it is occupied or intended for occupancy as separate living quarters; that is, when the occupants do not live and eat with any other persons in the structure and there is direct access from the outside or through a common hall.

A household includes the related family members and all the unrelated persons, if any, such as lodgers, foster children, wards, or employees who share the housing unit. A person living alone in a housing unit, or a group of unrelated persons sharing a housing unit as partners, is also counted as a household. The count of households excludes group quarters.

Householder. The householder refers to the person (or one of the persons) in whose name the housing unit is owned or rented (maintained) or, if there is no such person, any adult member, excluding roomers, boarders, or paid employees. If the house is owned or rented jointly by a married couple, the householder may be either the husband or the wife. The person designated as the householder is the "reference person" to whom the relationship of all other household members, if any, is recorded. The number of householders is equal to the number of households. The number of family householders is equal to the number of families.

Family. A family is a group of two or more persons (one of whom is the householder) related by birth, marriage, or adoption and residing together; all such persons (including related subfamily members such as children and their spouses) are considered as members of one family. Beginning with the 1980 CPS, unrelated subfamilies (referred to in the past as secondary families) are no longer included in the count of families, nor are the members of unrelated subfamilies included in the count of family members.

Family household. A family household is a household maintained by a family (as defined above); it includes any unrelated persons (unrelated subfamily members and/or secondary individuals) who reside there. The number of family households is equal to the number of families. The count of family household members differs from the count of family members, however, in that the family household members include all persons living in the household, whereas family members include only the householder and his/her relatives.

Own children. Own children in a family are sons and daughters, including stepchildren and adopted children of the householder. The count of own children under 18 years old is limited to single (never-married) children.

Children ever born. The term "children ever born" refers to the total number of live births reported by women. Included in the number are children born to the woman before her present marriage, children no longer living, and children away from home, as well as children who are still living in the home.

Labor force and employment status. The labor force and employment estimates relate to the population 15 years old and over.

Labor force. Persons are classified as in the labor force if they were employed as civilians, unemployed, or in the Armed Forces during the survey week. Data are shown only for the civilian labor force.

Employed. Employed persons include all civilians who, during the specified week (1) did any work as paid employees or in their own business or profession, or on their own farm, or who worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers on a farm, or in a business operated by a member of the family, or (2) were not working but who had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor-management dispute, or because they were taking time off for personal reasons, whether or not they were paid by their employers for time off, and whether or not they were seeking other jobs. Excluded from the employed group are persons whose only activity consisted of work around the house (such as own home housework, painting or repairing own home, etc.) or volunteer work for religious, charitable, and similar organizations.

Unemployed. Unemployed persons are those civilians who, during the survey week, had no employment but were available for work and (1) had engaged in any specific job-seeking activity within the past 4 weeks, such as registering at a public or private employment office, meeting with prospective employers, checking with friends or relatives, placing or answering advertisements, writing letters of application, or being on a union or professional register; (2) were waiting to be called back to a job from which they had been laid off; or (3) were waiting to report to a new wage or salary job within 30 days.

Not in the labor force. All civilians 15 years old and over who are not classified as employed or unemployed are defined as "not in the labor force." This group includes persons engaged only in own home

housework, attending school, or unable to work because of long-term physical or mental illness; persons who are retired; seasonal workers for whom the survey week fell in an off season; and the voluntarily idle. Persons doing only unpaid family work for less than 15 hours during the survey week are also classified as not in the labor force.

Occupation. Data on occupation refer to the job held during the survey week. Persons with more than one job during the survey week were classified as employed in the occupation in which they worked the greatest number of hours during the week. The occupational groups are based on the classification system used in the 1980 Census of Population.

Farm occupations. The occupation categories "farm operators and managers" and "farm workers and related occupations" are considered farm occupations. "Farm workers and related occupations" includes farm, marine life, cultivation, and nursery workers; groundskeepers and gardeners; animal caretakers; and graders, sorters, and inspectors of agricultural products.

Nonfarm occupations. The category includes all occupations not classified as farm.

Industry. Data on industry refer to the job held during the survey week. Persons with more than one job during the survey week were classified as employed in the industry in which they worked the greatest number of hours during the week. The industry groups are based on the classification system used in the 1980 Census of Population.

Agriculture. The industry category "agriculture" includes (1) farm operators, managers, and laborers; (2) persons employed on farms in occupations such as truck driver, mechanic, and bookkeeper; and (3) persons engaged in certain activities other than strictly farm operation such as cotton ginning, contract farm services, veterinary and breeding services, hatcheries, experimental stations, greenhouses, landscape gardening, tree service, trapping, hunting preserves, and kennels.

Nonagricultural industries. The category includes all industries not specifically classed under agriculture.

Class of worker. Persons are classified into three categories based on type of employment during the survey week.

Self-employed workers. Persons who worked for profit or fees in their own business, profession, or trade, or who operated a farm either as an owner or tenant.

Wage and salary workers. Persons who worked for any governmental unit or private employer for wages, salaries, commissions, tips, pay "in kind," or at piece rates.

Unpaid family workers. Persons who worked 15 or more hours per week without pay on a farm or in a business operated by a person to whom they are related by birth or marriage.

Money income. This is defined as the algebraic sum of money wages and salaries, net income from farm and nonfarm self-employment, and income other than earnings. Data on income cover money income received (exclusive of certain money receipts such as capital gains) before payments for personal income taxes, Social Security, union dues, Medicare deductions, etc. Therefore, money income does not reflect the fact that some families receive part of their income in the form of noncash benefits such as food stamps, health benefits, and subsidized housing; that some farm families receive noncash benefits in the form of rent-free housing and goods produced and consumed on the farm; or that noncash benefits are also received by some nonfarm residents which often take the form of the use of business transportation and facilities, full or partial payments by business for retirement programs, medical and educational expenses, etc. These elements should be considered when comparing income levels.

For each person in the CPS 15 years old and over, questions were asked on the amount of money income received in the preceding calendar year from each of the following sources: (1) money wages or salary; (2) net income from nonfarm self-employment; (3) net income from farm self-employment; (4) Social Security or railroad retirement; (5) Supplemental Security Income; (6) public assistance or welfare payments; (7) interest on savings or other investments which pay interest; (8) dividends, income from estates or trusts, or net rental income; (9) veterans' payments or unemployment and workers' compensation; (10) private pensions or government employee pensions; (11) alimony or child support, regular contributions from persons not living in the household, and other periodic income.

Receipts from the following sources are not included as income: (1) money received from the sale of property, such as stocks, bonds, a house, or a car (unless the person was engaged in the business of selling such property, in which case the net proceeds would be counted as income from self-employment); (2) withdrawals of bank deposits; (3) money borrowed; (4) tax refunds; (5) gifts; and (6) lump-sum inheritances or insurance payments.

Family income. The total income of a family is the algebraic sum of the amounts received by all income recipients in the family.

In the income distribution for families, the lowest income group (under $5,000 or loss) includes those families who were classified as having no income in the income year and those reporting a loss in net income from farm and nonfarm self-employment or in rental income. Some of these were living on income "in kind," savings, or gifts; or were newly constituted families; or families in which the sole earner had recently died or had left the household. However, other families who reported no income probably had some money income which was not recorded in the survey.

It should be noted that although the income statistics refer to receipts during the preceding year, the composition of families refers to the time of the survey. The income of the family does not include amounts received by persons who were members of the family during all or part of the income year if these persons no longer resided with the family at the time of enumeration. However, family income includes amounts reported by related persons who did not reside with the family during the income year but who were members of the family at the time of enumeration.

Median and mean income. The median income is the amount which divides the distribution into two equal groups, one having incomes above the median, and the other having incomes below the median. The mean income is the amount obtained by dividing the total income of a group by the number of units in that group. The medians and means for households and families are based on all households and families.

Poverty definition. Families and unrelated individuals are classified as being above or below the poverty level using the poverty index originated at the Social Security Administration in 1964 and revised by Federal Interagency Committees in 1969 and 1981. The poverty index is based solely on money income and does not reflect the fact that many low-income persons receivo noncash benefits such as food stamps, Medicaid, and public housing. The index is based on the Department of Agriculture's 1961 Economy Food Plan and reflects the different consumption requirements of families based on their size and composition. It was determined from the Department of Agriculture's 1955 Survey of Food Consumption that families of three or more persons spend approximately one-third of their income on food; the poverty level for these families was, therefore, set at three times the cost of the Economy Food Plan. For smaller families and persons living alone, the cost of the Economy Food Plan was multiplied by factors that were slightly higher in order to compensate for the relatively larger fixed expenses of these smaller households. The poverty thresholds are updated every year to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The average poverty threshold for a family of four was $11,203 in 1986 about 1.9 percent higher than the comparable 1985 cutoff of $10,989. For further details, see Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 157.

Rounding. The individual figures in this report are rounded to the nearest thousand. With few exceptions, the individual figures have not been adjusted to group totals, which are independently rounded. Percentages are rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent; therefore, the percentages in a distribution do not always add to exactly 100.0 percent. The totals however, are always shown as 100.0. Percentages are based on the rounded absolute numbers.

Appendix B. Source and Reliability of Estimates

SOURCE OF DATA

The estimates in this report are primarily derived from data obtained from the Current Population Survey (CPS) conducted by the Bureau of the Census. Other data came from the Censuses of Population and Housing of the Bureau of the Census and reports from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Most of the CPS estimates are annual averages of monthly data covering the calendar year 1987. (See appendix A.)

Basic CPS. The monthly CPS deals mainly with labor force data for the civilian noninstitutional population. Questions relating to labor force participation are asked about each member in every sample household. For this report, persons in the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post are also included.

The present CPS sample was selected from the 1980 census files with coverage in all 50 States and the District of Columbia. The sample is continually updated to reflect new construction. The current CPS sample is located in 729 areas comprising 1,973 counties, independent cities, and minor civil divisions in the Nation. In this sample, approximately 59,500 occupied households were eligible for interview. Of this number, about 2,500 occupied units were visited but interviews were not obtained because the occupants were not found at home after repeated calls or were unavailable for some other reason.

The following table provides a description of some aspects of the CPS designs in use during the referenced data-collection periods.

Description of the Current Population Survey

Time period	Number of sample areas[1]	Housing units eligible	
		Interviewed	Not interviewed
1986 to present	729	57,000	2,500
1985	[2]629/729	57,000	2,500
1982 to 1984	629	59,000	2,500
1980 to 1981	629	65,500	3,000

[1]These sample areas were chosen to provide coverage in each State and the District of Columbia.

[2]The CPS was redesigned following the 1980 Census of Population and Housing. During phase-in of the new design with the old, housing units from both designs were in the sample.

CPS estimation. The estimation procedure used in this survey involved the inflation of the weighted sample results to independent estimates of the total civilian noninstitutional population of the United States by age, race, sex and Hispanic/non-Hispanic categories. These independent estimates are based on statistics from decennial censuses of population; statistics on births, deaths, immigration and emigration; and statistics on the strength of the Armed Forces.

Decennial census of population. Some decennial census data in this report are based on the sample associated with the census.

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

Since the CPS estimates were based on a sample, they may differ somewhat from the figures that would have been obtained if a complete census had been taken using the same questionnaires, instructions, and enumerators. There are two types of errors possible in an estimate based on a sample survey: sampling and nonsampling. The accuracy of a survey result depends on both types of errors, but the full extent of the nonsampling error is unknown. Consequently, particular care should be exercised in the interpretation of figures based on a relatively small number of cases or on small differences between estimates. The standard errors provided for the CPS estimates primarily indicate the magnitude of the sampling error. They also partially measure the effect of some nonsampling errors in responses and enumeration, but do not measure any systematic biases in the data. (Bias is the difference, averaged over all possible samples, between the sample estimates and the desired value.)

Nonsampling variability. Nonsampling errors can be attributed to many sources, e.g., inability to obtain information about all cases in the sample, definitional difficulties, differences in the interpretation of questions, inability or unwillingness on the part of respondents to provide correct information, inability to recall information, errors made in collection such as in recording or coding the data, errors made in processing the data, errors made in estimating values for missing data, and failure to represent all units with the sample (undercoverage). Undercoverage in the CPS

results from missed housing units and missed persons within sample households. Overall undercoverage as compared with the level of the 1980 decennial census is about 7 percent. It is known that CPS undercoverage varies with age, sex, and race. Generally, undercoverage is larger for males than for females and larger for Blacks and other races combined than for Whites. Ratio estimation to independent age-sex-race and Hispanic population controls, as described previously, partially corrects for the bias due to survey undercoverage. However, biases exist in the estimates to the extent that missed persons in missed households or missed persons in interviewed households have different characteristics from those of interviewed persons in the same age-sex-race Hispanic group. Further, the independent population controls used have not been adjusted for undercoverage in the 1980 census. For additional information on nonsampling error including the possible impact on CPS data when known, refer to Statistical Policy Working Paper 3, *An Error Profile: Employment as Measured by the Current Population Survey,* Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1978 and Technical Paper 40, *The Current Population Survey: Design and Methodology,* Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1978.

Sampling variability. The standard errors given in the following tables are primarily measures of sampling variability, that is, of the variations that occurred by chance because a sample rather than the entire population was surveyed. The sample estimate and its standard error enable one to construct confidence intervals, ranges that would include the average results of all possible samples with a known probability. For example, if all possible samples were selected, each of these being surveyed under essentially the same general conditions and using the same sample design, and if an estimate and its standard error were calculated from each sample, then approximately 90 percent of the intervals from 1.6 standard errors below the estimate to 1.6 standard errors above the estimate would include the average result of all possible samples.

The average estimate derived from all possible samples is or is not contained in any particular computed interval. However, for a particular sample, one can say with specified confidence that the average estimate derived from all possible samples is included in the confidence interval.

Some statements in the report may contain estimates followed immediately by a number in parentheses. For those statements one has only to add to and subtract from the estimate the number in parentheses to calculate the upper and lower bounds of the 90-percent confidence interval. For example, if a statement contains the phrase "grew by 1.7 percent (± 1.0)" the 90-percent confidence interval for the estimate, 1.7 percent, would be from 0.7 percent to 2.7 percent.

Standard errors may also be used to perform hypothesis testing, a procedure for distinguishing between population parameters using sample estimates. The most common type of hypothesis appearing in this report is that the population parameters are different. An example of this would be comparing the median age of farm residents to the median age of nonfarm residents. Tests may be performed at various levels of significance, where a level of significance is the probability of concluding that the characteristics are different when, in fact, they are identical.

To perform the most common test, let x and y be sample estimates for two characteristics of interest. Let the standard error on the difference x-y be s_{DIFF}. If the ratio $R = (x-y)/s_{DIFF}$ is between -1.6 and +1.6, no conclusion about the difference between the characteristics is justified at the 0.10 level of significance. If, however, this ratio is smaller than -1.6 or larger than +1.6, the observed difference is significant at the 0.10 level. In this event, it is commonly accepted practice to say that the characteristics are different. Of course, sometimes this conclusion will be wrong. When the characteristics are, in fact, the same, there is a 10 percent chance of concluding that they are different. A" statements of comparison in the text have passed a hypothesis test at the 0.10 level of significance or better. This means that, for most differences cited in the text, the estimated difference between characteristics is greater than 1.6 times the standard error of the difference.

Comparability of data. Data obtained from the CPS and other governmental sources are not entirely comparable. This is due in large part to differences in interviewer training and experience and in differing survey processes. This is an additional component of error not reflected in the standard error tables. Therefore, caution should be used in comparing results between these different sources.

Caution should also be used when comparing estimates for 1980 and later, which reflect 1980 census-based population controls, with estimates from earlier years. This change in population controls had relatively little impact on summary measures such as means, medians, and percent distributions, but did have a significant impact on levels. For example, use of 1980-based population controls results in about a 2-percent increase in the civilian noninstitutional population and in the number of families and households. Thus, estimates of levels for 1980 and later will differ from those for earlier years by more than what could

be attributed to actual changes in the population and these differences could be disproportionately greater for certain subpopulation groups than for the total population.

In addition, the estimates in this report for 1985-87 are based on revised survey weighting procedures for persons of Hispanic origin. Prior to 1985, the estimation procedures used in this survey involved the inflation of weighted sample results to independent estimates of the noninstitutional population by age, sex, and race. There was, therefore, no specific control of the survey estimates for the Hispanic population. During the last several years, the Bureau of the Census has developed independent population controls for the Hispanic population by sex and detailed age groups and has adopted revised weighting procedures to incorporate these new controls. It should be noted that the independent population estimates include some, but not all illegal immigrants.

Note when using small estimates. Summary measures (such as medians and percent distributions) are shown only when the base is 75,000 or greater. Because of the large standard errors involved, there is little chance that summary measures would reveal useful information when computed on a smaller base. Estimated numbers are shown, however, even though the relative standard errors of these numbers are larger than those for corresponding percentages. These smaller estimates are provided primarily to permit such combinations of the categories as serve each data user's needs. Also, care must be taken in the interpretation of small differences. For instance, even a small amount of nonsampling error can cause a borderline difference to appear significant or not, thus distorting a seemingly valid hypothesis test.

Standard error tables and their use. In order to derive standard errors that would be applicable to a large number of estimates and could be prepared at a moderate cost, a number of approximations were required. Therefore, instead of providing an individual standard error for each estimate, generalized sets of standard errors are provided for various types of characteristics. As a result, the sets of standard errors provided give an indication of the order of magnitude of the standard error of an estimate rather than the precise standard error.

The figures presented in tables B-1 and B-2 are approximations to the standard errors of various estimates for persons. To obtain the approximate standard error for a specific characteristic the appropriate standard error in table B-1 or B-2 must be multiplied by the factor for that characteristic given in table B-3 or B-4. These factors must be applied to the generalized standard errors in order to adjust for the combined effect of the sample design and the estimating procedure on the value of the characteristic.

Table B-1. Standard Errors of Annual Averages of Estimated Persons Employed in Agriculture in the Nonfarm Population

(Numbers in thousands)

Size of estimate	Standard error
25	7
50	10
100	14
250	22
500	31
1000	44
2500	70
5000	98
10,000	137
15,000	165
25,000	208
50,000	271
100,000	312
175,000	198

Note: To derive the standard errors of annual averages for characteristics of the farm population, and other nonfarm characteristics, multiply the standard errors obtained above by the appropriate factor shown in table B-3 or B-4.

Standard errors for intermediate values not shown in the generalized tables of standard errors may be approximated by linear interpolation.

Two parameters (denoted "a" and "b") are used to calculate standard errors for each type of characteristic; they are presented in tables B-3 and B-4. These parameters were used to calculate the standard errors in tables B-1 and B-2 and to calculate the factors in tables B-3 and B-4. They also may be used directly to calculate the standard errors for estimated numbers and percentages. Methods for computation are given in the following sections.

Standard errors of estimated numbers. The approximate standard error, S_x, of an estimated number shown in this report can be obtained in two ways. It may be obtained by use of the formula

$$S_x = fs \qquad (1)$$

Where f is the appropriate factor from table B-3 or B-4 and s is the standard error on the estimate obtained by interpolation from table B-1. Alternatively, the standard error may be approximated by formula (2) from which the standard errors in table B-1 were calculated. Use of this formula will provide more accurate results than the use of formula (1) above

$$S_x = \sqrt{ax^2 + bx} \qquad (2)$$

Here x is the size of the estimate and a and b are the parameters in table B-3 or B-4 associated with the particular characteristic.

Table B-2. Standard Errors of Percentages of Annual Averages of Estimated Persons Employed in Agriculture in the Nonfarm Population

Base of percentage (thousands)	Estimated percentage					
	1 or 99	2 or 98	5 or 95	10 or 90	25 or 75	50
25	2.8	3.9	6.1	8.4	12.2	14.0
50	2.0	2.8	4.3	6.0	8.6	9.9
100	1.4	2.0	3.1	4.2	6.1	7.0
250	0.9	1.2	1.9	2.7	3.8	4.4
500	0.6	0.9	1.4	1.9	2.7	3.1
1000	0.4	0.6	1.0	1.3	1.9	2.2
2500	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.2	1.4
5000	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.9	1.0
10,000	0.14	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.7
15,000	0.11	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.6
25,000	0.09	0.12	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4
50,000	0.06	0.09	0.14	0.2	0.3	0.3
100,000	0.04	0.06	0.10	0.13	0.2	0.2
175,000	0.03	0.05	0.07	0.10	0.15	0.2
230,000	0.03	0.04	0.06	0.09	0.13	0.15

Note: To derive the standard errors of annual averages for characteristics of the farm population, and other nonfarm characteristics, multiply the standard error obtained above by the appropriate factor shown in table B-3 or B-4.

Illustration of the computation of the standard error of an estimated number. Suppose that a data table of annual averages in this report shows 5,081,000 White farm residents in the civilian noninstitutional population. Interpolation in table B-1 shows the standard error on an estimate of this size to be approximately 99,000. Table B-3 shows that for the farm population "Total or White" characteristic, the appropriate factor is 1.2. Applying the factor and using formula (1) would yield a standard error of 119,000.[1]

The 90-percent confidence interval for the number of White farm residents in the civilian noninstitutional population is from 4,891,000 to 5,271,000 (using 1.6 times the standard error).

Therefore, a conclusion that the average estimate derived from all possible samples lies within a range computed in this way would be correct for roughly 90 percent of all possible samples.

Standard errors of estimated percentages. The reliability of an estimated percentage, computed using sample data for both numerator and denominator, depends upon both the size of the percentage and the size of the total upon which this percentage is based. Estimated percentages are relatively more reliable than the corresponding estimates of the numerators of the percentages, particularly if the percentages are 50 percent or more. When the numerator and denominator of the percentage are in different categories, use the factors or parameters from table B-3 or B-4 indicated by the numerator. The approximate standard error, $s_{(x,p)}$, of an estimated percentage can be obtained by use of the formula

$$s_{(x,p)} = fs \qquad (3)$$

In this formula, f is the appropriate factor from table B-3 or B-4 and s is the standard error on the estimate from table B-2. Alternatively, it may be approximated by the following formula from which the standard errors in table B-2 were calculated. Use of this formula will give more accurate results than use of formula (3) above.

$$s_{(x,p)} = \sqrt{\frac{b}{x} p\,(100-p)} \qquad (4)$$

Here x is the size of the subclass of persons which is the base of the percentage, p is the percentage ($0 \leq p \leq 100$), and b is the parameter in table B-3 or B-4 associated with the particular characteristic in the numerator of the percentage.

Illustration of the computation of the standard error of a percentage. Suppose that another another data table in this report shows that of 2,780,000 employed farm residents age 15 years and over, 1,329,000 or 47.8% had farm occupations. Table B-3 shows the b parameter for this characteristic to be 2909; using formula (4), the standard error, $s_{(x,p)}$, on an estimate of 47.8 percent is

$$\sqrt{\frac{2909}{2{,}780{,}000}(47.8)(100.0-47.8)} = 1.6 \text{ percent}^2$$

[1] Alternatively, using formula (2) and table B-3, the approximate standard error is

$$120{,}000 = \sqrt{-0.000012(5{,}081{,}000)^2 + 2909\,(5{,}081{,}000)}$$

[2] Alternatively, using formula (3), table B-2, and the factor 1.2 from table B-3, the approximate standard error is computed to be 1.2 x 1.3 = 1.6 percent.

Table B-3. Parameters and Factors to be Used to Obtain Standard Errors for Annual Average Characteristics of Persons

Characteristic	Parameters		Factors
	a	b	
Farm Population			
Total farm population, employment:			
Total or White	-0.000012	2,909	1.2
Black	-0.000080	2,909	1.2
Hispanic	-0.000265	4,902	1.4
Unemployed:			
Total or White	-0.000004	1,054	0.7
Black	-0.000033	1,211	0.8
Hispanic	-0.000114	2,040	1.0
Nonfarm Population			
Employed in agriculture:			
Total or White	-0.000010	1,974	1.0
Black	-0.000074	1,974	1.0
Hispanic	-0.000259	3,327	1.3
Employed in nonagriculture:			
Total or White:			
Both sexes	-0.000006	1,047	0.7
Male only	-0.000010	906	0.7
Female only	-0.000008	776	0.6
Black:			
Both sexes	-0.000028	745	0.6
Male only	-0.000053	644	0.6
Female only	-0.000038	552	0.5
Hispanic:			
Both sexes	-0.000098	1,256	0.8
Male only	-0.000170	1,085	0.7
Female only	-0.000143	930	0.7
Unemployed:			
Total or White	-0.000003	552	0.5
Black	-0.000024	634	0.6
Hispanic	-0.000083	1,068	0.7

Note: For the standard errors for regional data apply the following factors to the above parameters: Northeast 0.75, Midwest 0.92, South 1.03, West 1.07 and Northeast, Midwest and West combined 0.91.
For metropolitan and urban characteristics, use the parameters listed in tables B-3 and B-4.
For nonmetropolitan and rural characteristics, apply the factor 1.5 to the parameters listed in tables B-3 and B-4.

Thus, the 90-percent confidence interval on the percent of employed farm residents aged 15 years and over that were in farm occupations is from 45.2 to 50.4, i.e., 47.8 ± (1.6 x 1.6).

Standard error of a difference. For a difference between two sample estimates, the standard error is approximately equal to

$$s_{(x-y)} = \sqrt{s_x^2 + s_y^2} \qquad (5)$$

where s_x and s_y are the standard errors of the estimates x and y, respectively. The estimates can be of numbers, percents, ratios, etc. This will represent the actual standard error quite accurately for the difference between two estimates of the same characteristic in two different areas or for the difference between separate and uncorrelated characteristics in the same area. If, however, there is a high positive (negative) correlation between the two characteristics, the formula will overestimate (underestimate) the true standard error.

Illustration of the computation of the standard error of a difference between estimated percentages. Assume that a data table in this report shows that 20.3 percent of the farm resident population was below the poverty level. The corresponding percentage for nonfarm residents below the poverty level was 13.8 percent. Thus, the apparent difference between the poverty level of farm and nonfarm residents is 6.5 percent. Using table B-4 and formula (4), the standard error, $s_{(x,p)}$, on the estimate 20.3 percent with a base of 5,276,000 is approximately 2.4 percent. The standard error on the estimate 13.8 percent with a base of 231,318,000 is 0.2 percent. Using formula (5), the standard error of the estimated difference of 6.5 percent is about

Table B-4. Parameters and Factors to be Used to Obtain Standard Errors for Monthly Characteristics of Persons

Characteristic	Parameters		Factors
	a	b	
Farm Population			
Fertility (number of women)	-0.000070	3,635	1.4
Household and family, marital status:			
Total or White	-0.000046	8,557	2.1
Black	-0.000470	12,273	2.5
Hispanic	-0.000842	12,273	2.5
Family and household income	-0.000011	3,546	1.3
Employment:			
Both sexes	-0.000018	4,445	1.5
Male	-0.000032	3,845	1.4
Female	-0.000025	3,295	1.3
Unemployment	-0.000016	4,213	1.5
Poverty, persons:			
Total	-0.000056	18,389	3.1
65 years and older	-0.000166	6,339	1.8
Poverty, families, total	+0.000095	3,865	1.4
Nonfarm Population			
Fertility (number of women)	-0.000037	1,903	1.0
Household and family, marital status:			
Total or White	-0.000024	4,480	1.5
Black	-0.000246	6,426	1.8
Hispanic	-0.000441	6,426	1.8
Family and household income	-0.000010	1,896	1.0
Employment:			
Both sexes	-0.000013	2,327	1.1
Male	-0.000023	2,013	1.0
Female	-0.000018	1,725	0.9
Unemployment	-0.000012	2,206	1.1
Poverty:			
Persons:			
Total	-0.000041	9,628	2.2
65 years and older	-0.000121	3,319	1.3
Families:			
Total	+0.000084	2,067	1.0

NOTE: For the standard error parameters for regional data apply the following factors to the above parameters: Northeast 0.75, Midwest 0.92, South 1.03, West 1.07 and Northeast, Midwest and West combined 0.91.
For metropolitan and rural characteristics, use the parameters listed in tables B-3 and B-4.
For nonmetropolitan and rural characteristics, apply the factor 1.5 to the parameters listed in tables B-3 and B-4.

$\sqrt{(2.4)^2 + (0.2)^2} = 2.4$ percent

This means that the 90-percent confidence interval on the difference between farm and nonfarm residents below the poverty level is from 2.7 percent to 10.3 percent. Therefore, a conclusion that the average estimate of the difference derived from all possible samples lies within a range computed in this way would be correct for roughly 90 percent of all possible samples. Since this interval does not contain zero, we can conclude with 90-percent confidence that the percent of farm residents below the poverty level is greater than the percent of nonfarm residents.

Standard error of a median. The sampling variability of an estimated median depends upon the form of the distribution as well as the size of its base. An approximate method for measuring the reliability of an estimated median is to determine a confidence interval about it. (See the section on sampling variability for a general discussion of confidence intervals.) The following procedure may be used to estimate the 68-percent confidence limits and hence the standard error of a median based on sample data.

1. Determine, using the standard error tables and factors or formula (4), the standard error of the estimate of 50 percent from the distribution.

2. Add to and subtract from 50 percent the standard error determined in step (1).

3. Using the distribution of the characteristic, calculate the 68-percent confidence interval by calculating the values corresponding to the two points established in step (2).

4. Once the limits of the 68-percent confidence interval are computed, the standard error of a median can be computed by the formula:

$$S_{median} = \frac{U-L}{2} \qquad (6)$$

where:
U = Upper limit of the 68-percent confidence interval,
L = Lower limit of the 68-percent confidence interval.

Illustration of the computation of a confidence interval for a median. Assume that this report shows that the median age of farm residents was 37.0 years. The size, or base, of the distribution from which this median was determined is 5,226,000 persons.

1. Using formula (4), the standard error of 50 percent on a base of 5,226,000 is about 1.2 percent.

2. To obtain a 68-percent confidence interval on an estimated median, add to and subtract from 50 percent the standard error found in step (1). This yields percent limits of 48.8 and 51.2.

3. Since 47.6 percent of the farm residents were less than 35 years old and 6.1 percent were 35 to 39 years old, the lower limit of the median age may be found by interpolation to be

$$35 + (40-35)\left(\frac{48.8 - 47.6}{6.1}\right) = 35.98$$

Similarly, the upper limit may be found by linear interpolation to be about

$$35 + (40-35)\left(\frac{51.2 - 47.6}{6.1}\right) = 37.95$$

Thus, the 68-percent confidence interval on the median age of farm residents is from 35.98 to 37.95 years.

4. The standard error of the median is, therefore,

$$\frac{37.95 - 35.98}{2} = 0.99$$

The 90-percent confidence interval on the median age of farm residents is found to be from 35.42 to 38.58, i.e., 37.0 + (1.6 x 0.99).

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